

# Cakebread Cellars

NAPA VALLEY  
Since 1973

2019

## MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Deep ruby in color, the 2019 Merlot opens with a medley of ripe fruit flavors including plum, blackberry, and black cherry. A symphony of additional notes emerge including violet, crushed stone, and vanilla. Across the palate, the wine is velvety and full-bodied with concentrated and rich flavors of blackberry and plum. Bright acidity supports the wine, showcasing notes of minerality, herbs, and florals. Fine, persistent tannins drive the long black cherry finish of this deeply flavorful and elegant wine.

### VINEYARDS & VINTAGE

This Merlot comes from our estate vineyards throughout Napa Valley, including our Suscol Springs Ranch in the cooler southeastern reaches. Grapevines at our Suscol Springs Ranch have to struggle through rocky soils—a beneficial stress that yields smaller berries of great concentration and supple tannins. We also include grapes from our warm, nutrient rich valley floor vineyard in Rutherford. The diversity of these Merlot vineyard sites enables us to craft a wine that highlights the best of the varietal; deep fruit flavors, silky mouthfeel, bright acidity, and refined elegant tannins.

The 2019 season began with ample rainfall, which filled the soils in advance of a long and even growing season. Overall temperatures were cooler in 2019, and there were no extreme heat waves. This steady weather allowed the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly in the vineyards, leading to well-balanced wines ideal for long-term cellaring.

### WINEMAKING

Each of our Merlot vineyards were harvested separately when the grapes reached perfect ripeness and hand-harvested overnight to maintain freshness and the pure varietal character of Merlot. Once at the winery, the grapes underwent a cold soak to extract maximum color and flavor from the grapes. After fermentation, the wine was aged in 44% new French Oak until July 2020, when the components were blended to yield an ideal Merlot. Then, the blended wine was aged for an additional seven months to ensure perfect oak integration and rich aromatics.



### GRAPE VARIETY

99.9% Merlot, 0.1% Cabernet Sauvignon

### VINEYARDS

Napa Valley

### HARVEST DATES

September 27 – October 15, 2019

### WINEMAKER

Stephanie Jacobs

### NOTES

ALCOHOL 14.8%

ACIDITY 0.64G/100 ml

PH 3.50

BOTTLE April 2021

AGING Aged 17 months in 44% new French oak, 56% neutral French oak

[WWW.CAKEBREAD.COM](http://WWW.CAKEBREAD.COM)