

Cakebread Cellars

NAPA VALLEY
Since 1973

2021

MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

The soft and fruit-forward 2021 Merlot shows deep aromas of blackberry, black cherry, plum, and mocha with undertones of crushed stone minerality and flowers. On the palate, the wine is lush, silky, and elegant with concentrated flavors of fresh blackberry and black plum, that develop into notes of toast and oak. Bright acidity and refined tannins provide ample structure for the rich, mineral-driven, black cherry finish.

VINEYARDS & VINTAGE

The 2021 Merlot comes from vineyards across Napa Valley, including our Suscol Springs Ranch in the cool southeastern reaches of Napa and our warm valley floor vineyard in Rutherford. Each vineyard contributes a layer of aromatic and flavor nuance to the final wine, allowing us to create a multi-dimensional Merlot that highlights the variety's best qualities: deep fruit flavors, a plush texture, bright acidity, and elegant tannins.

The 2021 vintage in Napa began with a dry winter, creating a second year of drought conditions in the Valley. An even, mild spring and summer allowed the vines to slowly ripen a small, high-quality crop of grapes with exceptionally dense color and flavor concentration. The result is a dark and full-flavored Merlot capable of extended aging.

WINEMAKING

As each vineyard site reached perfect ripeness, it was harvested overnight to maintain the grapes' vibrant acidity and fresh fruit flavors. Each lot was fermented separately before aging in French oak barrels. In July of 2022, the component lots were tasted and blended to create a Merlot offering a harmony of fruit flavor and refined structure. After blending, the final wine was returned to barrels to ensure an ideal integration of toast and oak structure with fruit flavor and rich aromatics. Overall, the Merlot spent 17 months in French oak, of which 44% was new.



GRAPE VARIETY

99.4% Merlot, 0.6% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARDS

100% Napa Valley

HARVEST DATES

September 7 – October 6, 2021

WINEMAKER

Stephanie Jacobs

NOTES

ALCOHOL 14.3%

ACIDITY 0.619G/100 ml

PH 3.57

BOTTLE April 2023

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

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