

2020

Cakebread Cellars

NAPA VALLEY
Since 1973

VIEWFINDER MERLOT HOWELL MOUNTAIN

For the first time, Stephanie has crafted a singular Merlot from our renowned Howell Mountain vineyard. This wine boasts aromas of boysenberry, black cherry, fig and dried herbs. On the full-bodied palate, concentrated flavors of blackberry and plum are balanced by hints of minerality. Opulent, robust tannins are framed by a dense, powerful black fruit finish. This merlot is beautiful to drink now and will continue to age gracefully in the bottle.

VINEYARDS & VINTAGE

The fruit from the rugged slopes of Howell Mountain, where vineyards lie high above Napa Valley's signature fog between 1,100 and 1,900 feet of elevation, is defined by iron-rich, volcanic soils. These soils force the vines to produce small, intense grapes which translate into powerful and intensely concentrated wines. The vines are separated into 24 separate blocks based on aspect, soil profile, clonal selection, and variety. The warm sunshine during the day and cool nights allow the fruit to develop a deep color and complex flavors while retaining acidic structure and aromatic depth.

The 2020 vintage began with a warm dry winter and mild spring, which prepped the vineyards for a long, even ripening season. Summer was dominated by cool mornings and warm, sunny afternoons, slowly ripening the fruit. The result was fully ripened Merlot with notable lush fruit characters, robust tannins and balanced acidity.

WINEMAKING

We carefully monitor tannin levels in the juice and wine during maceration and fermentation. Each lot was allowed to macerate and ferment separately in the winery to gain optimum color, flavor, and aromatic complexity. After fermentation, the lots were aged for 17 months in 70% new French oak. Our barrels were selected and specifically toasted to highlight the nuances of Dancing Bear Cabernet Sauvignon in order to match and enhance the wine's richness, roundness, and power.



GRAPE VARIETY

98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

VINEYARDS

100% Dancing Bear Ranch, Howell Mountain

HARVEST DATES

September 23, 2020

WINEMAKER

Stephanie Jacobs

NOTES

ALCOHOL 14.8%

ACIDITY 0.60G/100 ml

PH 3.73

BOTTLE April 2022

AGING Aged 17 months in 70% new French oak, 30% neutral French oak

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