



PLUMPJACK

WINERY



2019 PLUMPJACK MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE

Near record rainfall. Late budbreak. Late bloom. Late veraison. Late ripening. For the second vintage in a row, the key to the vintage was patience. The vines emerged from their dormancy later than is typical and they reached all their milestones later as well. As in 2018, it seemed the grapes would never ripen. So, we waited. Then, in early October, everything began to change. The flavors in the grapes grew deeper and richer, the skins began to grow thinner, and the color of the grapes was more easily extracted from the skins. Our patience paid off and the resulting wines are just stunning.

FERMENTATION & AGING

Our Merlot grapes were cold soaked for three to five days before the onset of fermentation. The fermentation was then allowed to reach a maximum temperature of 92 degrees F and pressed off the skins after 8 - 10 days.

The wine was then moved into oak barrels where they underwent malolactic fermentation. Seventy percent of these barrels were new barrels and the balance were once-filled barrels. Ninety percent of our Merlot barrels were French Oak Bordeaux barrels and 10% were American Oak barrels. The coopers used include Sylvain, Taransaud, Nadalie, and Demptos. A touch of Malbec was added to the blend to add depth and weight to the palate. The Merlot was aged for 18 months before bottling.

WINEMAKER IMPRESSIONS

Our Merlot vineyard is in the Oak Knoll region of the Napa Valley and is nestled up to the Mayacamas Mountain Range on the west side of the valley. The mild climate and alluvial soils in this region lend this wine great balance and structure. The mild temperatures allow these grapes to develop bright aromatics and flavors, along with a beautiful natural acidity and elegance. The alluvial soils bring darker fruits to the nose and palate and give this wine its structure and concentration.

The 2019 vintage has a beautiful and complex nose – layers of black cherry, boysenberry, black currant, and fresh cut flowers come through first, followed by cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, and a touch of cocoa. The palate, too, has great depth and complexity – flavors of black cherries, muddled berries, dried herbs, and dark chocolate. The palate has a creamy texture and silky tannin complimented by a fresh, vibrant acidity that lends this wine great length.

VARIETALS/BLEND	97% Merlot 3% Cabernet Sauvignon
PRODUCTION	5,378 Cases
ALCOHOL	15.0%