

2019 PLUMPJACK MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY



VARIETALS

97% Merlot
3% Cabernet Sauvignon



ALCOHOL

15.0%



AGING

18 months



PRODUCTION

5,378 cases



94 POINTS

Vinous



PLUMPJACK

WINERY

WINEMAKER

Aaron Miller

AVA

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.

VINEYARD

Our Merlot vineyard is in the Oak Knoll region, nestled up to the Mayacamas Mountain Range on the west side of Napa Valley, where the mild climate and alluvial soils lend great balance and structure to the wine. Mild temperatures allow the 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, giving this wine its structure and concentration.

FERMENTATION & AGING

Our Merlot grapes were cold-soaked for 3–5 days before the onset of fermentation. The fermentation reached a maximum temperature of 92°F and pressed off the skins after 8–10 days before moving into oak barrels where they underwent malolactic fermentation. Of the oak barrels, 70% were new, and the balance were once-filled. Of the Merlot barrels, 90% were French Oak Bordeaux and 10% were American Oak. 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.

IMPRESSIONS

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