SMALL LOT COLLECTION

NAPA VALLEY MERITAGE

2021

2020 VINTAGE

2021 was a smooth and uneventful harvest season. June started out warm, followed by a cool and foggy July and August that slowed ripening and caused nice retention of acidity. Even ripening, with no extreme heat events, made for ideal growing conditions. Sparse winter rains resulted in an early budbreak, evenly developed clusters, and smaller berries packed full of flavor. Overall, the fruit was exceptional, making it another amazing year for quality.

IN THE VINEYARD

The grapes for this Meritage are grown in the famed Napa Valley appellation across five vineyards. The Cabernet Sauvignon is grown on the hillsides of Atlas Peak and produces nice, concentrated fruit. The Cabernet Franc is from two vineyards on the east side of St. Helena and Oakville. The Petit Verdot is from our Rutherford vineyard providing texture and weight to tannins. The Malbec comes from our Rutherford vineyard and provides added spice and our Merlot, also from our Oakville vineyard provides supple flavors of jammy plum.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The fruit was hand-harvested between September 8 to October 12. The grapes were pressed off and went through extended maceration for an average of 41 days on the skins then aged for 18 months in 29% new French oak.

WINE PROFILE

Clothed in a noble hue of deep purple, the wine beckons with a captivating array of aromas: ripe Bing cherries, invigorating raspberries, and rich chocolate, all with a hint of the earth's essence. The palate is raped in luxurious flavors of juicy strawberries, creamy mocha, roasted almonds, and the lively zest of cassis. Fine tannins weave through the flavor profile, with perfectly melded acidity contributing to a harmonious blend of tastes. The finish is as graceful as it is persistent, an

TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

VARIETALS:
57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Petite Verdot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 11% Malbec, 5% Merlot

ALCOHOL: 14.5% by vol.

PH: 3.73

TA: 6.4 g/L

AGING: 18-19 months in 29% new French oak

CERTIFIED CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE —VINEYARD—