



#### TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley  
VARIETALS: 89% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot  
ALCOHOL: 15%  
PH: 3.53  
TA: 6.2 g/L  
AGING: 19 months in 21% new French oak  
VEGAN

NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

## MERLOT NAPA VALLEY RESERVE 2022

### 2022 VINTAGE

The 2022 growing season produced exceptional fruit quality. After years of drought, substantial winter rainfall replenished the soil, followed by dry conditions through March. Spring ushered in mild, cooler temperatures, with bud break beginning in March. A week of triple-digit heat in September was tempered by mid-month rains, which slowed the harvest. The grapes that remained on the vine developed deep concentration and intense flavors, resulting in wines with remarkable structure and luxurious tannins.

### CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The 2022 Merlot is a carefully crafted blend sourced from six vineyards, harvested between September 3 and September 15. Four of these vineyards are located in the cooler, fog-influenced southern part of Napa, where Merlot achieves full phenolic ripeness without excessive sugar accumulation or elevated alcohol levels. Planted on Haire soils—light clay soils that help regulate vine temperature—these sites enhance the wine's textural richness while showcasing savory, dark fruit characteristics. The remaining two vineyards, situated in the warmer regions of St. Helena and Oakville, contribute vibrancy, roundness, and silkiness to the blend. These sites are planted on Bale soils, which are more gravelly with volcanic influences, adding complexity and depth. Following harvest, the grapes underwent extended maceration, spending an average of 29 days on their skins. The wine was then aged for 19 months in 21% new French oak and bottled unfiltered at the end of August 2024.

### WINE PROFILE

The diverse terroirs create a wine of balance, depth, and finesse. Aromas emerge alongside warm baking spices, cedar, and a whisper of vanilla from well-integrated oak. The medium to full-bodied palate has a silky texture with a lovely depth and fresh fruit flavors layered with notes of chocolate and espresso. The finish is long and lingering, with echoes of dark chocolate, spice, and a refined minerality that speaks to the wine's Napa Valley origins.

**92 points**

WINE ENTHUSIAST  
2021 VINTAGE

**91 points**

WINE ENTHUSIAST  
2020 VINTAGE

**92 points**

JAMES SUCKLING  
2019 VINTAGE

**90 points**

VINOUS  
2018 VINTAGE