

WHITEHALL
LANE

2021 MERLOT

Napa Valley

TASTING NOTES

This Merlot is bursting with notes of strawberry rhubarb pie, red plums, mixed berries, milk chocolate and layers of licorice. The palate showcases fine, juicy tannins alongside wild strawberries, raspberry liqueur, chocolate covered cherries, brioche and toasted walnuts. It is supple in texture and shows attractive depth on the finish. Enjoy right now and through 2037 with proper cellaring.

WINEMAKING

Upon hand harvesting in the early morning hours, our grapes were carefully destemmed and sent to tank for a whole-berry fermentation. The grapes were cold soaked in tank at 45°F for 4-7 days, allowing for increased color, aroma and flavor extraction. After inoculation with a select yeast, the grape must (juice, skins and seeds) fermented at 82°F, which allowed for a hot extraction on the skins. For fermentation cap management, the juice was pumped over the skins two times per day, wetting the cap evenly for a nice healthy fermentation. After fermentation and pressing, the wine was aged in 35% new French oak and 65% neutral oak for 20 months before bottling. The blend is 82% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Whitehall Lane has always utilized the art of blending to make a Merlot with layers of flavors, complexity and balance. These elements assist with the goal of varietal typicity in creating the perfect Merlot. This 2021 Napa Valley Merlot was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage was considered a drought year, which have typically proven to be excellent quality for wines. The season started off with bud break in early March, leading to a Spring that allowed for a perfect flowering and set for the grape clusters. Summer was also quite warm and long, leading into an early Autumn harvest season. The drought conditions led to lower yields in the vineyard, which gave a perfect concentration for juice versus skin ratio. The consistent summer weather encouraged our Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc to ripen in late September into October to finish the harvest season.



Winemaker: Jason Moulton **Appellation:** Napa Valley **Alcohol:** 14.9%

Composition: 82% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

Accolades: 92 Points, James Suckling • 92 Points, Wine Spectator •

92 Points, Wine Enthusiast • 90 Points, Wine Advocate

