



2023 NAPA VALLEY MERLOT

Inspired after a visit to Bordeaux, Dan Duckhorn produced the first vintage of Duckhorn Vineyards Napa Valley Merlot in 1978. Highlighting Estate vineyards and top sites, our renown Merlot reflects the diversity of the valley's many appellations. Blending with Cabernet Sauvignon adds notable depth and structure, as well as signature flavors of black cherry, plum and spice.

VINTAGE NOTES

In 2023, heavy winter and spring rains delayed budbreak and set the stage for one of the latest vintages in decades. Cooler spring temperatures led to an extended flowering period with our team applying post-veraison thinning to achieve a balanced crop. As the season progressed, temperatures remained below average, which provided additional hangtime but required extra patience. Our patience paid off, with 2023 offering one of our most unique and rewarding vintages to date! Semillon harvest began on August 28th with Sauvignon Blanc soon following. With no significant heat events, the grapes were able to ripen beautifully. Harvest concluded on November 9th with Cabernet Sauvignon from Oak Knoll and Howell Mountain. Our 2023 whites are crisp, with ideal flavor development and bright acids, and the reds are pure, supple and balanced, with vibrant acidity, fresh flavors, and intense colors.

WINEMAKING NOTES

A true expression of Napa Valley Merlot, this wine opens with vibrant aromas of red currant, raspberry, black plum, and baking spices, accented by notes of rhubarb crumble, cardamom, and milk chocolate. The palate is silky and refined, with fine-grained tannins carrying layers of plum, cherry, and cocoa powder. A bright, elegant finish highlights the wine's balance and graceful structure.

WINEMAKING

APPELLATION	Napa Valley
SUB-APPELLATION	Carneros, Calistoga, Yountville, St. Helena
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	78% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc
FERMENTATION & AGING	Aged 15 months in 100% French oak 40% new, 60% neutral
ALCOHOL	14.5%
pH	3.66
ACIDITY	0.54 g/100 ml

