

# 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 was patience. The vines emerged from dormancy and reached every milestone later than usual. As in 2018, it seemed the grapes would never ripen. So, we waited. Then, in early October, everything began to change. The grapes' flavors grew deeper and richer, the skins grew thinner, and the color was more easily extracted from the skins. Our patience paid off and the resulting wines are just stunning.

## VINEYARD

Our Merlot is grown in two regions within Napa Valley. Our Oak Knoll vineyard, nestled up to the Mayacamas Mountain Range on the west side of the valley, has a mild climate and alluvial soils that 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 structure and concentration to the wine. Our Carneros vineyard has a cooler climate, bringing an earthy, wet stone element to the nose along with beautiful fruit. The cooler temperatures help to preserve the color in grape skins that lends to the beauty of the wine swirling in your glass and adding depth and weight to the palate to perfectly balance the tannin.

## FERMENTATION & AGING

The grapes were cold-soaked for 3-5 days before the onset of fermentation, which reached a maximum of 92°F, then pressed off the skins after 8-10 days before moving into oak barrels and undergoing malolactic fermentation. The oak barrels were 70% new, and the balance were once-filled. The Merlot barrels were 90% French Oak Bordeaux and 10% American Oak. The coopers used were Sylvain, Taransaud, Nadalie, and Demptos. The touch of Malbec adds 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.