

2021 PLUMPJACK MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY



VARIETALS

98% Merlot
2% Malbec



ALCOHOL

15.2%



AGING

18 months



PRODUCTION

3,500 cases



PLUMPJACK

WINERY

WINEMAKER

Aaron Miller

AVA

Napa Valley

VINTAGE

In 2021, Napa Valley received only about one-third of our average rainfall, which showed in the vineyards. The vines were stressed, and yields were extremely low. While this isn't good for business, it's great for wine quality. The grapes were small, and the flavors were highly concentrated, which allowed us to craft wines of great intensity and depth. And with the deft hands of our winemaking team, we were able to maintain focus, precision, elegance, and beauty in these wines.

VINEYARDS

Our Merlot is grown in two regions within Napa Valley: Oak Knoll and Carneros. 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 8-9 days before moving into oak barrels and undergoing malolactic fermentation. The oak barrels were 66% new and 34% 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 aged for 18 months before bottling.

IMPRESSIONS

The 2021 PlumpJack Merlot is complex and layered. The nose leads with cherry, raspberry, and boysenberry, followed by sweet earth and dried herbs. The oak barrels bring depth to the nose by infusing notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, pie crust, vanilla, caramel, and hickory. These flavors carry through to the palate, which has a silky texture, firm yet plush tannin, and lively acidity. This wine has great length and finishes with an impression of espresso and baker's chocolate.