HENDRY

Est. 1939

PROUDLY CELEBRATING EIGHT DECADES OF FAMILY WINEGROWING

HENDRY VINEYARD
NAPA VALLEY

2023 MERLOT

VINEYARD The Hendry Vineyard is located on benchlands west of the town of Napa. The vines grow on thin, stony clay soil between 200 and 300 feet above sea level. Morning fog and strong afternoon breezes from San Pablo Bay moderate the climate.

BLOCKS Hendry Merlot is planted in blocks 13A (Clone 3), and 13B, (Clone 14). Both blocks are directly behind the winery, in dry, rocky soils. Block 13B is our oldest Merlot block, planted in 1995.

VINTAGE In 2023, median budbreak for the Merlot was April 6th, bloom on June 3rd, and veraison on August 17th. The grapes were harvested on September 23rd. Bloom to harvest was 112 days. The two blocks yielded an average of 3.3 tons per acre.

WINEMAKING Each year, we pick and ferment the five Bordeaux varieties (Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon) in small lots, aging them individually. After a year of barrel aging, George Hendry selects the blend for our RED. In some years, we also choose to bottle small quantities of the individual components separately. The 2022 Merlot was aged a total of 15 months in French oak barrels, approximately 40% of which were new.

NOTES Deep ruby-purple. Cocoa, plum and dried cherries in the initial aromas, backed by toasty oak. Good weight, medium-bodied. Fruit flavors on the palate range from cranberry to cherry, depending on the accompanying food. Moderate, pleasantly fine-grained tannins. This wine is going to be fun to play with!

Keep the fats medium-weight: a filet mignon vs. a ribeye, for example. A charcuterie board would work, a bowl of savory, salty mixed nuts, soy-glazed pork loin, mushroom risotto or pizza, or seared duck breast. Enjoy from now through at least 2036.

Alcohol 14.7%
301 cases produced
TA: 5.3
VA: .46

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