

VARIETAL COLLECTION

Malbec

BY CALDWELL

2021

Vintage:	Third
Composition:	97% Malbec, 3% Merlot
Clone:	595
Appellation:	Coombsville, Napa Valley, CA
Vineyard:	Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981
Vineyard Blocks:	Caldwell 17 and 8AB
Yield:	3.0 Tons per Acre on Average
Average Vine Age:	20 Years
Grape Varieties:	See Composition Section
Rootstock:	3309
Harvest Date:	Multiple

Vintage Summary: The 2021 Vintage can be classified as a severe drought year here in Napa Valley. With only 7.3" of rain from January to March, bud break was early, and bloom had higher stress than typical – leading to a smaller crop. Currently, I'm drawing comparisons in the cellar to the 2015 vintage, but with much less heat towards the end of the growing season, helping retain freshness and varietal expression and individuality. Overall, a very high-quality vintage (if you had water to irrigate with, which we luckily did), I foresee the vintage to be known for its structure, freshness, and long-term age-ability.

Fermentation:	French Oak Barrels
Yeast:	Multiple
ML Bacteria:	Multiple
Wood Origin:	100% French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)
Aging:	18 Months
New Oak Barrels:	60%
Fining:	None
Filtering:	Unfiltered
Alcohol:	14.5%
Bottling Date:	July 10, 2023

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The Caldwell Varietal Collection Malbec is only made in special years (those when we can spare enough). Malbec grows wonderfully here in our cooler part of the valley. We chose only the two best barrels for the 2021 blend, and they show a more serious side of Malbec with a hint of reduction immediately after uncorking, but they open up to a glorious blueberry floral minerality. The toast of the new French oak comes off a bit stronger this vintage. Similar to the 2019, the bright Rainier cherry resonates at the core, but just like all other 2021s in the lineup, finishes with the power and intensity that demarcate the age-worthy from the ephemeral.

Cellaring:	Now – 8 Years
Production:	55 Cases
Price:	\$125/750ml

