

VARIETAL COLLECTION

Merlot

2019

Vintage:	Sixth
Composition:	100% Merlot
Clone:	1, 3, and 181
Appellation:	Napa Valley, Coombsville District
Vineyard:	Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981
Vineyard Blocks:	Caldwell Blocks 14 and 17
Yield:	3.0 Tons per Acre on Average
Average Vine Age:	34 Years
Grape Varieties:	See Composition Section
Rootstock:	3309 and 5C
Harvest Date:	Multiple

Vintage Summary: The 2019 growing season, much like 2018, was ideal for almost every varietal, clone, rootstock, and age group of vine. It started very, very late, which risked running out of time to fully ripen the fruit, but the season turned out magically long, temperate, and devoid of rain and heat spikes during critical phenological ripening steps. Mother Nature provided winemakers and vineyard managers very little stress, while perfectly stressing the fruit. 2019 will go down in history as one of the highest quality vintages of all time. Every wine in our lineup has a backbone of structure, power, and verve yet is also strongly defined by varietal purity and elegance.

Fermentation Vessel:	Stainless Steel
Yeast:	Multiple
ML Bacteria:	Multiple
Wood Origin:	French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)
Ageing:	100% French Oak, 80% New, for 20 Months
Fining:	None
Filtering:	Unfiltered
Alcohol:	15.1%
Bottled on:	August 19, 2020

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: We said this last year, but we'll say it again: "It's not every year that we make a Varietal Collection Merlot, but with 2019's impeccably long growing season, we knew we could make something special." Aromatics are perfumed and filled with sweet vanilla, a hint of dill frond, juniper, and oyster shell surrounded by high toned red/blue fruits. Compared to its 2018 counterpart, the 2019 does not come across as voluptuous, but is still fairly full bodied for a Merlot. Loads of very ripe raspberry and every-so-perfectly ripe blueberry lead into a very long finish accompanied by super fine, voluminous tannins and perfect pitch acidity.

Optimal Drinking Period:	Now – 10 Years
Production:	74 Cases
Price:	\$125 / 750ml

