

PETERSON



2020 MERLOT
Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard
Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County



Jamie Peterson's Vintaged View & Vineyard Notes

When we first planted Merlot in our Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard in the 1980s, it was mostly used as a blending component for our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and Estate Cabernet Franc. In the mid and late 90s, my father bottled small amounts of Merlot to showcase the delicious depth of flavors capable from this varietal. These wines have held up well for over 20 years.

After a 10-year hiatus of not bottling a varietal Merlot, the quality of the grapes in 2012 convinced us to give this noble variety another round in the spotlight. In years when the grapes from our mountain vineyard are of exceptional depth, we will continue to produce a Merlot to satisfy its fervent fans.

Combining all the soft, plush quality that Merlot is known for with the structure from grapes grown at our mountain vineyard site makes for a wine I am truly proud of and never shy to share at any gathering.

Technical Data

Composition:

| <i>Varietal Breakdown</i> | <i>Harvest Dates</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 85% Merlot | Sept. 11 |
| 15% Cabernet Sauvignon | Oct. 2 |

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|-----------------------|---|
| Vineyard: | Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard |
| Appellation: | Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County |
| Alcohol: | 14.7% |
| pH: | 3.28 |
| TA: | 0.73g/100ml |
| Barrel Aging: | 25 months |
| Cooperage: | 35% new French oak barrels 65% 5-year-old French oak barrels |
| Bottling Date: | Dec. 7, 2022 (unfined & unfiltered) |
| Production: | 125 cases 750ml bottles |
| Closure Type: | Natural cork - Amorim NDTech - individually scanned and TCA free |
| Release Date: | July 2024 |

Tasting Notes

The nose offers focused aromas of mixed dark berries fused with vanillin oak and seasoned cigar box. On the palate, a beam of ripe cherry merges with juicy plum, mocha-infused oak, dark chocolate, red currant and an alluring mineral essence. Integrating oak and tannins tame this richly textured wine, while adding to its ageability.

Perfect to open when serving flank steak stuffed with cremini mushrooms, spinach and goat cheese, or Dijon-rubbed pork loin roast drizzled with cherry-orange sauce.