

PETERSON



2021 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:

Varietal Breakdown

85% Merlot
15% Cabernet Franc

Harvest Dates

Sept. 10
Sept. 10

Vineyard: Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard
Appellation: Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County
Alcohol: 14.7%
pH: 3.40
TA: 0.68g/100ml
Barrel Aging: 26 months
Cooperage: 25% new French oak barrels
75% 5-year-old French oak barrels
Bottling Date: Dec. 15, 2023 (unfined & unfiltered)
Production: 100 cases | 750ml bottles
Closure Type: Natural cork - Amorim NDTech - individually scanned and TCA free
Release Date: September 2025

Tasting Notes

Traces of dusty cherry merge with scents of savory dried herbs and fine-grained oak, filling the nose with inviting aromatics. The silken mouthfeel introduces deep, rich flavors of ripe black cherry, mocha, caramel and spice notes. As the wine hits mid-palate, boysenberry, huckleberry and sweet tobacco appear, along with a touch of fennel. The integrated structure caresses the palate and enhances the depth and concentration of this seductive wine.

A great wine to pair with a dessert course of chocolate decadence, it will also seamlessly complement braised short ribs, or grilled Basque lamb riblets.