



2023 Napa Valley MERLOT

Since producing our first vintage of Merlot in 1983, we've been committed to making the best possible expression of the variety. Site selection and meticulous farming are key to exceptional Merlot, which is why our vineyards are on the Napa side of Carneros, where we consistently produce high-quality wines from this noble grape.

VINEYARDS

Our Merlot is grown in estate-owned and grower-partner vineyards on the Napa side of Carneros, where the clay soils are similar to those of Bordeaux's right bank. The cool climate allows the thin-skinned grapes to gradually develop flavor and tannins while retaining natural acidity.

WINEGROWING

Our winemakers believe that 2023 was one of the best vintages in recent memory. The year was cool and consistent, ending with some warm spells in September. These perfect conditions allowed optimal fruit ripeness while still preserving the signature acid and body for which Rombauer wines are known. Sustainable farming practices throughout the growing season were tailored to each block with the assistance of aerial photos produced using NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) technology. The fruit was handpicked at dawn and sorted in the vineyard.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were carefully destemmed and optically sorted to ensure only perfect fruit made it into the wine. A cold soak extracted color and flavor before a combination of tank and barrel fermentation was used to provide a richer, more textured palate. The wine was gently basket-pressed before being racked to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and aging.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of rich dark fruit and cassis meet hints of vanilla on the nose. The palate is dense and layered, with flavors of red plum, blackberry and spice. The wine's fine, soft tannins are subtly framed by a bright acidity in each harmonious sip.

FOOD PAIRINGS

Our favorite pairings* for this wine include Wagyu sliders, Cherry Compote Pork Chops, and Seafood Gumbo. *Recipes for pairing may be found on Rombauer.com.

RELEASE DATE	June 2025
APPELLATION	Napa Valley
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	82% Merlot 12% Cabernet Sauvignon 6% Petit Verdot
HARVESTED	Oct. 9th - Nov. 1st 2023
AVG BRUX AT HARVEST	25.2
COOPERAGE	16 months in French oak (35% new)
ALCOHOL	14.8%

