



FIRESTONE

VINEYARD



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

2022 | Merlot

Founded in 1972, Firestone was the first major estate winery to sink roots in Santa Barbara County. The winery's proximity to the Pacific Ocean, a mere 26 miles to the west, ensures a relatively mild and arid climate throughout the year. The moderate weather and complex, rocky soils make this a perfect setting for our Bordeaux, Rhône and Burgundian varieties.

VINEYARDS The grapes for this wine come from a vineyard on our estate in Santa Ynez Valley. Situated at 1,000-foot elevation on a plateau, this vineyard is comprised of gravely, sandy loam soil from sedimentary oceanic rocks containing limestone and shale, ideal soil for growing our Merlot because of its permeable qualities. During the growing season, the fog sits right on top of our vineyards, creating desirable, cool foggy morning weather, with diurnal temperature swings of 50 degrees.

VINTAGE Santa Ynez Valley's drought conditions continued in the 2022 growing season. Cool summer weather patterns delayed grape maturity until August, when hot days coupled with unusually warm nights pushed the fruit toward harvest readiness. Firestone had its earliest pick in the last 6 years, and was completely picked by October 19th.

WINEMAKER NOTES Our 2022 Merlot opens with concentrated aromas of juicy black plum and sweet tobacco leaf. On the palate, supple tannins and balanced acidity elevate notes of strawberry preserves, pomegranate, black olive, and cigar. The easy-drinking qualities of this Merlot make it the perfect wine to pair with caramelized veggies and filet mignon.

APPELLATION Santa Ynez Valley

COMPOSITION 90% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

ALCOHOL 14.1% | **TA** 5.7 g/L | **pH** 3.8

AGING French and American oak, 10% new

PRODUCTION 1,500 cases

