



M E R U S

## 2 0 2 1 M E R U S C A B E R N E T S A U V I G N O N

N A P A V A L L E Y

Merus is handmade in every sense of the word by winemaker Michael Beaulac. This vintage was primarily composed of Cabernet Sauvignon grown in the Rutherford Viticultural Appellation in Napa Valley. The individual vineyards selected for Merus are owned by a handful of serious growers who possess extraordinary terroirs and a willingness to implement our strict farming and harvesting protocols. Severe pruning for limited yield, deficit irrigation for greater flavor intensity, and hand-picked for cluster sorting. At the winery, the grapes are received and small-lot fermented. A rigorous selection at assemblage creates a wine that is dense, concentrated, and nuanced.

### V I N E Y A R D S

The 2021 Merus comes from carefully selected vineyards in Rutherford (64%), Coombsville (21%) and Spring Mountain (15%) regions of Napa Valley. Winemaker Michael Beaulac strives to produce a wine with big structure and weight, with balanced tannin and color. Utilizing fruit from a variety of prestigious vineyard sites and seeking out the right blocks can provide structure and color to match. Once the fruit is harvested, Michael keeps barrels of each block separate during fermentation and aging, allowing him to create a final master blend of the best lots possible.

### V I N T A G E

The 2021 growing season began with very little rain, which set the tone for another drought year in Napa Valley. The crop was very light with small berries, which were high in flavor concentration and of amazing quality. A warm summer and early fall were ideal for ripening and maturity of the fruit. While a light crop year, the 2021 vintage was a winemakers delight with exceptional fruit quality.

### W I N E M A K E R ' S N O T E S

The grapes were whole-berry destemmed and cold soaked for five days prior to inoculation and a warm ferment to dryness. During fermentation, the juice was pumped over twice daily in small capacity tanks for nine days. The wine was basket pressed off the skins and moved back to tank for full malolactic fermentation, then barreled down in separate lots for 18 months of aging in new French oak (Darnajou, Taransaud, Seguin Moreau, Bel Air).

The 2021 Merus is the benchmark for Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. It is bold, brooding, and defined by its mouth-coating texture. Aromas and flavors evolve with each sip - caramel, cherry, blueberry, and blackberry, with notes of cinnamon and fig. A wine of great structure and power, it will continue to develop further complexity with bottle age and show best over the next 15-25 years.

**90% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 7% MERLOT, 2% CABERNET FRANC,  
1% PETIT VERDOT**

**AGED 18 MONTHS IN 100% NEW FRENCH OAK**

**14.8% ALCOHOL      pH 3.78      TA 6.72 G/L**

**794 CASES PRODUCED**

