

CHATEAU ST JEAN

2021 MAGNOLIA RESERVE MERLOT

SONOMA COUNTY

Our roots are in Sonoma County. We have made wines from the region's diverse vineyards for over 50 years, starting in 1973. A fine wine estate with European style, we are proud to produce balanced and elegant wines, a hallmark of Chateau St. Jean. Our single-vineyard and blend expressions celebrate Sonoma County's distinctive, world-class growing region, and the special vineyard sites in which our grapes are grown.

VINEYARDS

This is a mix of Town and Country, Urban and Suburban. The Sebastiani Town Blocks are just a few blocks away from the Sonoma Town Square with old(er) Merlot vines planted in 1990. The Knights Valley Merlot, planted in 1991, are on a steep, rugged patch of Lookout Mountain/Anderson Ranch situated at around 1,000 feet in elevation, far from civilization. The small bit of Howell Mountain Merlot comes from Bancroft Vineyard also at higher elevation and planted in volcanic well-draining soils.

VINTAGE

2021 was a perfect ripening vintage in Sonoma County. With mild winter and spring temperatures, budbreak was ahead of average. Summer was warm and dry, with above average temperatures in August and September, leading to an early and fast ripening harvest. The warm weather resulted in ripe fruit flavors and one of the earliest starts of harvest in recent history.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were destemmed and crushed to tank for a two-day cold soak prior to inoculation and a warm ferment to dryness. The wine was pressed off skins with a small amount of press going to tank for settling and then racking to new and used French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. After 18 months of aging, the wine was filtered and bottled.

TASTING NOTES

This sultry Merlot opens with ripe aromas of dark cherry, black currant, vanilla, and spice. On the palate, lifted black cherry and dark berry fruit flavors are accented by notes of caramel, clove, allspice, and tobacco leaf. Soft tannins round out the generous finish. Pair this wine with garlic prawn and mushroom pizza, cedar smoked chicken, or roasted salmon with wild mushrooms, shallots, and fresh herbs.

2021

APPELLATION	Sonoma County
VARIETAL	89% Merlot, 11% Malbec
OAK	100% French oak, 50% new
AGING	18 months
ALCOHOL	14.5%
T.A.	6.04 g/L
PH	3.64