



FIRESTONE

VINEYARD



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

2020 | 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 2020 was a notably drier than usual year for Santa Barbara County. Bud break began in March and mild temperatures carried through spring and summer with the exception of short heat spikes occurring in late June, August and mid September. With the return of mild weather, we were able to pick each block at the optimal time. Harvest began September 3 and finished November 3.

WINEMAKER NOTES Our 2020 Merlot is layered and dynamic, featuring aromas and flavors of spiced plum, wild cherry and tobacco. Balanced acidity and smooth tannins finish with a hint of toasty oak. The easy-drinking qualities of this Merlot make it the perfect wine to pair with any red meat course or fragrantly-spiced roasted or grilled poultry dishes.

APPELLATION Santa Ynez Valley

COMPOSITION 100% Merlot

ALCOHOL 14.0% | **TA** 5.9 g/L | **pH** 3.60

AGING 10 months in French oak | 20% New

PRODUCTION 3,000 cases

