



2021 ESTATE ROSATO

NAPA VALLEY

Kuleto is one of the most complex and diverse wine producing properties in the world. Located in the volcanic mountains of eastern Napa our estate features vines perched along ridges and clinging to steep hillsides. Our soils, exposures, elevation changes and sub-climates are so complex that we've delineated our property into dozens of micro-blocks. Each of these tiny plots is treated as an individual vineyard with varieties, clones, rootstocks, density, trellising and farming methods tailored specifically to the site..

For winemaker Shun Ishikubo, there is a mutual understanding that all but a small percentage of the winemaker's work is done in the vineyard. Keeping the vineyard's serpentine twists and exposures in mind, the best-suited varietals for each block have been selected. Working with the land, not against it, the individually terraced lots are not oriented to one central direction, but instead are planted to maximize the benefits of their natural location.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2021 was a near perfect growing season with no heat waves. A light rainy season in January and February brought an early budbreak and bloom. Veraison also made an early appearance due to the second straight drought, which prompted harvest to begin earlier in the season; resulting in small berry sizes and intense flavors. The moderate weather allowed for an ample amount of time to make picking decisions, and the fruit was collected before the late-October rains.

If you happen to follow the varietal composition of our Rosato from year to year, you'll notice the huge variation in percent-ages of each grape. It may appear that we simply can't make up our minds on how to make this wine, but I can assure you that it is a deliberate process. How much juice is drawn from a given batch of grapes is based entirely on the size of the berries. The best red wines are generally made from small berries, where the ratio of skin to juice is highest. When a particular batch of fruit comes in with rather large berries (which varies by clone, by vintage, and by variety), the skin to juice ratio can be corrected by simply removing a portion of juice immediately from the crushed fruit. This juice is drawn off batch by batch and put into small stainless steel tanks, where it ferments at a very low temperature to produce the most aromatic, delicately fruity and floral 'white wine'. It just happens not to be white but contains a bit of color from the very brief contact time with the skins. A rosé wine is the perfect thing to sip on a hot day, when serving a variety of appetizers, or when you're mulling over a menu trying to figure out what to order.

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Rosato is a Saignée style Rosé, resulting in a darker pink color. The nose exudes aromas of sweet cherry, strawberry candy, apricot, and rose petal. The palate is dry yet juicy with an elegant texture and a pleasant fruit entry, mirroring its aromatics. Refreshing acidity lingers on the long and smooth finish.

TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot, 10% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Franc

Aging: 100% Stainless steel

Alcohol: 14.1% | pH: 3.43 | TA: 5.3 g/L | Cases Produced: 214