



FIRESTONE

VINEYARD



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

2021 | The Chairman Series 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, making it an ideal setting for our estate vineyards planted to Bordeaux, Rhone and Burgundian varieties.

VINEYARDS The grapes for this wine come from our best Merlot vineyard blocks 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 2021 had a minimal amount of rain during the winter, continuing Santa Barbara County's drought. Early bud break and mild spring weather continued into a cool summer. A short heat spike in early August lasted about a week before the mild weather pattern resumed, allowing us to pick each block at the optimum time. Our first pick was September 8th, the earliest in the last 5 years. Harvest was completed October 28th.

WINEMAKER NOTES This Chairman Series wine opens with mouthwatering aromas of juicy black plum and cherry fruit. On the palate, it has a rich mouthfeel with brambled blackberry and ribbons of cocoa, finishing with hints of espresso. This wine is perfectly balanced and features the best expressions of a classic Merlot.

APPELLATION Santa Ynez Valley

COMPOSITION 100% Merlot

ALCOHOL 14.5% | **TA** 6.32 g/L | **pH** 3.7

AGING 18 months in French and American oak | 15% new

PRODUCTION 573 cases



5017 ZACA STATION ROAD | LOS OLIVOS | CA. 93441 | FIRESTONEWINE.COM | 805.688.3940



f @FIRESTONEVINEYARD