



# FIRESTONE

VINEYARD



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

## 2023 | 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 gravelly, 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** 2023 was a cooler growing season overall, with moderate rainfall and later-than-average bud break. With proper canopy management, our reds developed high concentrations of color and tannin, and the whites retained austere fruit expression and natural, bright acidity. 2023 will be regarded as a vintage of great quality and of one of the most exceptional vintages in recent years.

**WINEMAKER NOTES** The 2023 offers enticing aromas of dark plum and earthy tobacco. On the palate, this wine is medium bodied with flavors of black cherry and accents of rich cassis fruit. It is elegant and refined with cocoa and bay leaf on the finish.

**APPELLATION** Santa Ynez Valley

**COMPOSITION** 91% Merlot, 9% Malbec

**ALCOHOL** 14.2% | **TA** 5.9 g/L | **pH** 3.82

**AGING** French oak | 25% new

**PRODUCTION** 882 cases

