



2019  
HANDMADE  
MERLOT - RUTHERFORD

### VINTAGE

The 2019 vintage was truly remarkable. With Mother Nature's support, the growing season provided fantastic grape growing conditions. Early warm summer days allowed the grapes to acclimate and develop superior flavor profiles. A cooler fall with a few sporadic heat spikes helped achieve even ripening resulting in robust and full flavors.

### VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

In the heart of the Foley Johnson Rutherford Estate, our Merlot is farmed in the famous "Rutherford Dust" that yields small, yet intense clusters from well-balanced vines. The ideal growing conditions in the vineyard allow our Bordeaux varietals to reach full maturity on the vine without taking on any green, leafy taste of under-ripe fruit. The grapes were harvested between August 20 - October 20, 2019, under clear skies. The wine went through 100% malolactic fermentation and aged for 20 months in 50% new French oak before going into bottle on July 28, 2021.

### TASTING

Aromas of spice and bright red cherry fill the nose upon opening our 2019 Handmade Merlot. The palate is juicy and filled with flavors of pomegranate and cranberry, with a fresh acidity. The French oak provides structure and hints of toasted spice. A viscous mouthfeel and smooth tannins linger on the elegant finish.

### STATISTICS

APPELLATION	Rutherford, Napa Valley	ALCOHOL	14.8%
VINEYARD	Foley Johnson Estate, Block 2	TA	6.1 g/L
COMPOSITION	100% Merlot	pH	3.56
AGING	20 months in French oak, 50% new	BOTTLING DATE	July 28, 2021
PRODUCTION	208 cases		