



2020
HANDMADE
MERLOT - RUTHERFORD

VINTAGE

The winter of 2019-2020 produced average rainfall in Napa County with the bulk of rainfall January through May. Spring temperatures were mild and warm, with bud break two weeks earlier than average. Temperatures during the summer were above average, which led to early grape ripening and an early harvest. The fruit for our 2020 Merlot was harvested just prior to the Glass Fire which damaged many wineries in Napa and Sonoma counties.

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 wine went through 100% malolactic fermentation and aged for 18 months in 35% new French oak before going into bottle on July 1, 2021.

TASTING

Aromas of red fruits, tea leaf, hibiscus and caramel fill the nose upon opening our 2020 Handmade Merlot. The palate is juicy and filled with flavors of strawberry and sweet cherry with a fresh acidity. The French oak provides structure and hints of toasted spice, cigar box and vanilla. A viscous mouthfeel and smooth tannins linger on the elegant finish.

STATISTICS

APPELLATION	Rutherford, Napa Valley	ALCOHOL	14.7%
VINEYARD	Foley Johnson Estate, Block 2	TA	6.5 g/L
COMPOSITION	100% Merlot	pH	3.52
AGING	18 months in French oak, 35% new	BOTTLING DATE	July 1, 2021
PRODUCTION	353 cases		