



FERRARI-CARANO

Vineyards and Winery

MERLOT

SONOMA COUNTY

2021

Select lots of grapes are chosen from Ferrari-Carano's vineyards in Sonoma County to create this beautifully balanced, medium-bodied wine. The cool climate, valley floor vineyards produce supple, fruit-forward wine, while the mountaintop vineyard fruit lends intensity and structure.

THE VINTAGE

Although we experienced an unusually rainy period in April, drought conditions in Sonoma county continued in 2021, with most of the annual precipitation landing in October and December, 2020. Spring temperatures were cooler, with bud break occurring one week later than average, while summer temperatures were above average with less nightly fog and cloud cover. With minimal irrigation, the grapes were ready for harvesting near the average pick dates for Bordeaux varieties.

HOW IT'S MADE

Upon entering the winery, the hand-harvested grapes are sorted, destemmed and then cold soaked for 3 days. Following the cold soak, yeast is added to start primary fermentation. The tank is pumped over once a day during the cold soak, then one to two times a day for the duration of primary fermentation. Once fermentation is finished, the wine is drained and pressed, then moved to barrels for malolactic fermentation, remaining in individual lots until blending and bottling. The wine completes a total of 17 months barrel aging in wine caves, allowing for the perfect balance of fruit, tannin and oak.

AROMAS & FLAVORS

This is a medium-bodied Merlot, displaying aromas of English toffee, vanilla, star anise, Santa Rosa plum, and leather. The palate is velvety smooth with notes of ripe plum, dried raspberry, nougat, and mocha on the finish.

FOOD PAIRINGS

The fruit forward, easy-drinking qualities of this Merlot make it the perfect wine to pair with any red meat course, Italian entrées and fragrantly-spiced roasted or grilled poultry dishes.

COOPERAGE

17 months in French oak, 25% new

TECHNICAL DATA

Composition 75% Merlot, 13% Syrah, 6% Petit Verdot, 3% Petite Sirah, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% mixed reds

Alcohol 14.8% | **pH** 3.81 | **TA** 5.73 g/L

Bottled May 2022