

2019 MERLOT



This wine will change your perception of Merlot

Varietal Composition:
Merlot

Appellation:
Paso Robles

Bottling Data:
pH: 3.70
Total Acidity: 0.53g/100mL
Alcohol: 15.5% by volume

Philosophy

The 2019 JUSTIN Merlot shows a serious side of this popular grape variety. In the past, the merlot grape had received a reputation as a soft, cushy, easygoing variety, but this wine proves that it can hold its own. Full-bodied with ripe fruit, and a classic Bordeaux-style savory character and firm tannins, this wine is a complex and serious version of Merlot that announces to the world that this is a grape variety with serious intentions.

Vintage Notes

2019 started with a cool winter with normal precipitation, breaking the dry trend of the previous six years. Spring was wet and cool with bud break coming a few weeks later than usual. Flowering progressed normally with minimal shatter occurring in a few blocks. June was dry with the first real warming trend beginning toward the end of the month. July started warm, showing the typical Paso Robles pattern of hot days and cold nights, but cooler weather toward the end of the month delayed veraison by a few weeks. Mid-August warmed again and stayed that way through early September with the usual Paso Robles cold fall nights, which preserves natural acidity in the fruit allowing us to pick this early ripening variety with full ripeness and maturity from our merlot blocks through early October.

Vinification

Fermentation: Stainless steel open and closed-top tanks with UV43 yeast and twice daily pump overs

Maturation: Barrel aged for 18 months in French oak (20% new)

Tasting Notes by Jim Gerakaris, CWE - JUSTIN Winery Sommelier

Appearance: Bright with moderate ruby purple color nearly to the rim with moderately stained thick tears on the glass.

Aroma: Aromatic with ripe black cherry, black currant and dark plum fruit with oak, sweet spice and cocoa notes.

Palate: Dry, full bodied, with ripe black fruit on entry with oak, vanilla, autumn leaf and subtle dark chocolate on the mid-palate. The finish is moderately long and clean with firm tannins, sustained ripe black cherry and black currant with minty camphor accents. The 2019 Merlot is full bodied with dark fruit and mouth-filling tannins that make it a great pairing with full flavored accompaniments such as semi aged cheeses like dry jack, gouda or parmesan cheeses, or with a prime rib or beef wellington.