

BALLENTINE

VINEYARDS

2022 Merlot Estate

Estate Grown • Napa Valley



Tasting Notes:

A symphony of ripe blackberries, red plums, and dark cherries greets the senses, with an elegant backdrop of vanilla bean, subtle cocoa dust, and a hint of clove. The aromatic profile is rich and inviting, promising depth and complexity. The palate is enveloped in a plush and fine-grained texture, unveiling succulent flavors of blackberries, juicy blackcurrants, and luscious ripe raspberries. This Merlot unfolds gracefully, revealing layers of dark chocolate intertwined with hints of roasted coffee beans and a delicate touch of clove that adds layers of intrigue and sophistication.

The experience culminates in a long, lingering finish that seamlessly combines power with elegance. Echoes of the rich fruit, nuanced chocolate, and subtle spice leave a lasting impression, inviting another sip.

Other Notes:

The 2022 vintage presented several challenges, particularly with a heatwave that struck just after Labor Day. By closely monitoring our vineyard and ripening patterns, we made the strategic decision to begin picking selectively ahead of the heat. When the heatwave arrived, we ramped up operations to harvest the majority of our fruit. Bringing in the grapes slightly ahead of the intense temperatures allowed us to craft wines that are beautifully concentrated and expressive. In the end, we're thrilled with how our 2022 reds have turned out, showcasing depth and elegance.

Food Pairing:

Roasted Duck, Mushroom Risotto, grilled lamb chops and flourless chocolate cake

Varietal:	90% Merlot, 5.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation:	Calistoga, Napa Valley
Harvest Date:	August 25, 2022
Bottled:	April 10, 2024
Alcohol:	15.4%
Cases:	428