



2020 AIDA ESTATE MERLOT



Harvest Date: September 10 – September 16, 2020

Barrel Age: 20 months, 60% new French oak

Cooperage: Nadalie, Taransaud, Demptos, Saury

Bottling Date: June 8, 2022

Alcohol: 14.7%

Release Date: Spring 2023

Cases Produced: 147

Retail Price: \$140 - 750ml

THE VINEYARD Our Aida Estate Vineyard has confirmed our initial belief that this site would be the ideal location for growing Bordeaux varietals as well as Zinfandel. Just north of the pinch in the hourglass of the Napa Valley, the Zinfandel grapes from our Aida Estate provide the bold, structured backbone for this immensely enjoyable wine.

THE VINTAGE As a result of the dry and temperate winter, the 2020 bud-break began a few weeks earlier than average. Spring did not bring much relief for growers in terms of water supply and irrigations were started early and continued frequently throughout the growing season. The vintage will forever be remembered by the August 14th extreme heat wave followed by an unprecedented round of over 11,000 lightning strikes across Northern California over a 36 hour period. The rest of the growing season and resulting harvest was more like an action packed movie than grape growing or winemaking. We came together as a team, however, and worked extremely hard, at times in dangerous circumstances, to produce a portfolio of beautiful, well-balanced, meticulously-crafted 2020 Vineyard 29 wines.

THE WINE Despite the beautiful and immediate dark fruit aromas, it is impossible to not be captivated by the gorgeous texture of this wine. Even right after opening, the 2020 Aida Merlot is a wine that will coat your palate with a silkiness that both Merlot and the Aida vineyard are famous for. Look for palate notes of tobacco leaf, cigar box and sun ripened Bing cherries. This wine is full of depth and concentration while still staying elegant and light on its toes. After a full mid-palate, the opening texture returns with a long finish peppered with lingering violets, rich chocolate and graphite.