



2021 AIDA ESTATE MERLOT



Harvest Date: September 3, 2021

Barrel Age: 20 months, 65% new French oak

Cooperage: Nadalie, Orion, Saury, Taransaud

Blend: 97% Merlot; 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Bottling Date: June 8, 2023

Alcohol: 14.7%

Release Date: Winter 2024

Cases Produced: 216

Retail Price: \$165 - 750ml

THE VINEYARD Our Aida Estate Vineyard has confirmed our initial belief that this site would be the ideal location for growing Bordeaux varietals. Just north of the pinch in the hourglass of the Napa Valley, the Merlot grapes from our Aida Estate provide a rich and supple, yet muscled backbone for this immensely enjoyable wine.

THE VINTAGE From the very first days of harvest, we knew the 2021 vintage was a stellar one. The 2021 growing season began a week or two later than typical due to a colder than average February and March. A few spring showers helped the vines along and the summer growing season was exceptionally good. The consistent weather, beautiful skies and ideal ripening conditions aided in a slow and steady sugar accumulation period alongside excellent tannin development. Harvest was smooth and steady and while yields were lower than average, the grapes were concentrated and flavorful. Evocative of the 2016 and 2013 vintages but with exceptional qualities of this vintage, the 2021 Aida Estate wines are delicious upon release while still being supremely cellar worthy.

THE WINE The 2021 Aida Estate Merlot opens as an exotic garden with scents of violets, orchids and earthy crushed rocks. Gentle swirling gives way to secondary notes of well-aged cigar box and pencil shavings and sets the stage for a dynamic palate. Ripe Bing cherry, black raspberry and black plum dominate and fill out the palate while anise, refined chocolate and spice add depth and complexity to this firm and well structured wine. A long, drawn-out finish echoes the intensity of a Petrus and hints at this wine's impressive aging potential.