



## 2022 AIDA ESTATE MERLOT



**Harvest Date:** September 2, 2022

**Barrel Age:** 20 months, 65% new French oak

**Cooperage:** Nadalie, Orion, Saury, Taransaud

**Blend:** 94% Merlot; 6% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Bottling Date:** June 11, 2024

**Alcohol:** 14.7%

**Release Date:** Winter 2025

**Cases Produced:** 293

**Retail Price:** \$165 - 750ml

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**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** The 2022 growing season began in early March following a few wet winter months, which set the stage for an excellent bud-break. Timing was in-line with the five-year average, and warmer temperatures during the last week of February helped to push smooth development across the valley. April was a bit cooler than average, and some vineyards had to be protected from potential frost damage, but things warmed up in May providing adequate conditions for bloom and fruit set. The summer months of the growing season were remarkably consistent with warm days and cool nights—a perfect diurnal weather pattern for flavor development and bright acidity. During Labor Day weekend, an unprecedented period of triple digit highs shocked the valley—nine days straight of triple digits. Several vineyards were harvested during or soon after the heat wave while others held strong into the first two weeks of October, when the last of the fruit made its way to the winery. Much of the late ripening fruit came from the Rutherford and Oakville areas.

**THE WINE** Gentle coaxing of the 2022 Aida Estate Merlot reveals a nose of juicy plums, violets and dark cherry, complemented by further mineral notes of graphite, crushed rock, and gravel. On the palate, the dark fruit plays a supporting role, allowing more tertiary notes of leather, cigar box, and roasted coffee to shine and create depth and power. Texturally, the wine is smooth and vibrant, with well-integrated tannins and a long, blackberry tinged finish.