



2023 AIDA ESTATE MERLOT



Harvest Date: September 29, 2023

Barrel Age: 20 months, 65% new French oak

Cooperage: Nadalie, Orion, Saury, Taransaud

Blend: 97% Merlot; 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Bottling Date: July 22, 2025

Alcohol: 14.7%

pH/TA: 3.74 / 0.50

Release Date: March 1, 2026

Cases Produced: 221

Retail Price: \$125 - 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 Napa Valley saw approximately 40" of rainfall over the winter of 2022/2023. The 2023 grape growing season began two weeks later than the five year average as a result of the cooler and wetter than average winter and early spring. The vines had an ample amount of water without being oversaturated, shoot growth was steady, flowering and fruit set were also two weeks later than usual, and veraison did not take place in most vineyards until mid-August. Growers and winemakers, at that time, knew that they were in for a long, late harvest. Patience was the name of the game for the 2023 vintage. Early ripening varietals such as Sauvignon Blanc were mostly picked in early to mid-September (as opposed to late August) and the Cabernet harvest lasted until November 10th, a record for Vineyard 29! Mother Nature was extremely generous in 2023 as the weather stayed moderate and the sun kept shining, thus allowing the vines to slowly ripen their clusters. The yields were bountiful and the wines are extremely dark in color (reds), full of aromatics, opulent, rich and juicy. There is amazing acid structure and fully developed tannins across the board for the red varietals. The whites are fresh and delicious as well. The 2023 vintage will go down as one of the greatest, most unique vintages in quite some time.

THE WINE The 2023 Aida Merlot generously opens with aromas of ripe plum, black cherry, and raspberry. Upon swirling, these aromatics are complemented by floral notes of violet and hints of cocoa, espresso, and subtle cedar. On the palate, firm tannins surround a mid-palate that never strays from plush and inviting. Flavors of dark red fruit, mocha, and baking spice are supported by bright acidity that adds lift and definition. The finish is long and seamless, leaving lingering impressions of dried rose petals and creamy vanilla. Its elegance will allow for early drinking or extensive cellaring.