



ESTD 1872

LONG MEADOW RANCH  
WINERY

NAPA VALLEY



## 2020 E.J. CHURCH MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

The first vintage of this wine takes its name from E.J. Church, Long Meadow Ranch's pioneering settler who acquired the property via a patent grant from President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. We have replanted the southwest-facing vineyards which E.J. Church established in the 1870s. With only a little over one acre, our Mountain Estate Merlot vineyard rests on the forest slope just behind the winery. This special location results in a Merlot featuring dark red stone fruits, savory forest notes, and elegantly enduring tannins that give the wine distinction and ageability.

**VINEYARD:** Estate Grown at 1,100 ft at our Mountain Estate

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION:** 100% Merlot

**ALCOHOL:** 13.5%

**MATURATION:** 18 months in 25% new French oak

**CASE PRODUCTION:** 212

**FOOD AFFINITIES:** Lamb Meatballs, Winter Stew, or a Hearty Heirloom Tomato Salad

### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"Nestled on the hillside just behind the winery, our small Merlot block is routinely among the first grapes harvested from the Mountain Estate. The 2020 opens with black cherry, dried cranberry, plum and a touch of cardamom on the nose. A vibrant acidity and gentle tannins support more lush stone fruit with hints of fresh olive, vanilla and cedar on the palate."

– Justin Carr

### GROWING SEASON:

Ideal conditions at the beginning of the growing season with mild temperatures led to an early budbreak. The below average rainfall resulted in smaller, evenly developed clusters with more concentrated flavors. The warm summer gave an early August harvest kickoff, where we had normal yields and exceptional fruit quality.

### LONG MEADOW RANCH:

Owned by Ted, Laddie, and Christopher Hall, LMR employs an integrated, organic farming system, using simple, sustainable methods. Each part of the Ranch contributes to the health of the whole. Vineyards and wine making, olive orchards and olive oil making, cattle and horse breeding all work together in complementary fashion, as do the egg-laying poultry flock and the organic vegetable gardens. All crops are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and are grown without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers.