



ESTD 1872

LONG MEADOW RANCH
WINERY

NAPA VALLEY



2021 E.J. CHURCH MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

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 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 30% new French oak

CASE PRODUCTION: 223

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

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"The youthful garnet red color of the 2021 EJ Church Merlot hints at what's to come despite the brooding dark cherry, fresh fig, and cocoa powder notes on the nose. On the palate, the natural mountain acidity drives the fruit bouquet in a lighter direction of red currants, cherry, and pomegranate. The tannins are subtle and balanced, but lend structure to a lingering finish with final hints of savory herbs and sweetly toasted oak." – Justin Carr

GROWING SEASON:

The 2021 vintage brought small, intensely-flavored berries and a predictable harvest. Spring had very little rain – the second year in a row with extreme drought conditions. These dry conditions were beneficial to the vines and meant less pruning and even cluster development. Harvest began and ended earlier compared to previous vintages bringing us extremely concentrated, juicy berries.

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.