

## 2021 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

**VINEYARD:** Estate grown at our Mountain & Rutherford Estates

VARIETAL: 100% Merlot

**ALCOHOL:** 13.5%

MATURATION: Aged in 25% new French oak

FOOD AFFINITIES: LMR grass-fed beef, smoked baby back ribs, or

barbecued pulled pork sandwiches

## **WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES:**

"A wonderful vintage for our Napa Valley Merlot, the always 100% varietal blend of fruit from our two Napa estates. The Rutherford Estate fruit shines on the nose with notes of red berry, pomegranate, cherry cola and a hint of raspberry leaf. The Mountain Estate fruit is more expressive on the palate with fresh blueberry, dried fig and savory forest flora that's supported by a fine balance of plush acid, soft tannins and just a hint of sweet French 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.