

# Merlot

LABEL: SMALL LOT

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2022



## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Dark in color, this wine opens with rich aromas of ripe blackberry, strawberry, raspberry, and warm barrel spice with a hint of vanilla. The palate follows with full, fruit-forward flavors of blackberry, blueberry, and strawberry, supported by well-integrated oak. Balanced and food-friendly, it offers bright acidity and a seamless blend of fruit and barrel character.

## VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Estate vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills. The fruit is exposed to dappled sunlight, allowing for uniform ripening and flavor development. Well balanced crop levels have allowed us to create wines with great depth and concentration.

## GROWING SEASON

The 2022 vintage started out cool and wet. A mid-April blizzard caused bud break to be behind by two to three weeks. The delayed timeline carried all the way through harvest. Warmer than normal temperatures in September and October and the lack of end of harvest frost allowed for longer hang time and flavor development during the hot, but brief harvest.

## WINEMAKING

Harvest Date: October 17, 2022

Primary Fermentation: Stainless steel tanks with twice daily pumpovers.

Aging: 18 months in 17% new French oak, 17% new American oak, and 66% neutral oak.

Bottling Date: August 8, 2024

Drinkability: 2025-2032

Cases Produced: 278

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 84% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 14.8%

T.A: 0.58 g/100 ml

pH: 3.89

UPC: 898012002514

## ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2020:

*James Suckling - 91 pts*

## ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2020:

*International Wine Review - 92 points*

## ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2018:

*San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition - Best of Class*

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