



## 2021 MERITAGE “BENCHLAND”

Dry Creek Valley

### HISTORY

This exquisite Meritage was inspired by our decades of working with Bordeaux varietals planted in the different districts and vineyards within Dry Creek Valley. Nearly five decades of experience have provided the knowledge of which properties can provide the best fruit that our region can offer. This delicious blend features fruit from specific vineyard sites in Dry Creek Valley that highlight the unique soils, microclimate and *terroir* of our home appellation.

### GROWING SEASON

The 2021 growing season was moderate and consistent, with more typical start and end dates for our 50<sup>th</sup> harvest. Due to drought conditions, we saw less shoot growth, so we gave the vines extra care and attention when managing canopies and crop loads. The shorter shoots, combined with a below average fruit set, led to our yield being down across the harvest compared to last year's. However, the quality was very high overall.

### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

This 2021 vintage is a rich and complex wine that's an absolute pleasure to drink. Aromas of black cherry, plum and blackberry waft from the glass. As the wine opens up, it reveals aromas of vanilla, mocha and cedar. On the palate, the wine is structured with chewy tannins and full of spicy nuances of white pepper, nutmeg and cardamom. The finish is seamless and well-integrated. This wine will age beautifully and develop in the bottle for years to come.



### BLEND

60% Cabernet Sauvignon  
18% Cabernet Franc  
13% Petit Verdot  
9% Malbec

### FERMENTATION

14–18 days in fermenters at 82–88°F;  
pumped over twice daily

### BARREL AGING

20 months in French and Hungarian  
oak; 43% new oak

ALCOHOL | 14.3%

BRIX | 24.8

PH | 3.64

TA | 6.1 g/L

### HARVEST DATES

September 23–October 7, 2021

VINE AGE | 11–27 years

### SOILS

Sand & clay loam

93  
POINTS

WINEENTHUSIAST