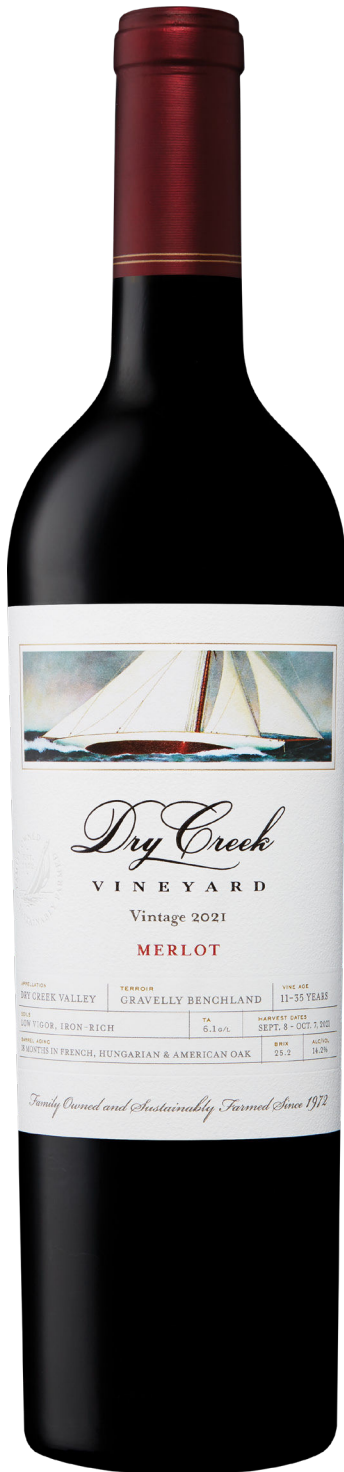




2021 MERLOT

Dry Creek Valley



HISTORY

Our first vintage of Merlot was released in 1974, and we have produced this classic Bordeaux varietal ever since. In fact, the Dry Creek Vineyard 1991 Reserve Merlot won the prestigious “Grand Prix d’Honneur” at the 1995 Challenge International Du Vin in Bordeaux, France — much to the surprise of the French! This delicious varietal is outstanding as a dominant variety with its bright aromatics and a velvety mouthfeel, and is also a great blending component for our Bordeaux program.

GROWING SEASON

The 2021 growing season was moderate and consistent, with more typical start and end dates for our 50th 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

In our 2021 vintage of Merlot, aromas of black currant, plum and black and red cherries immediately fill the senses. A few more moments reveal notes of brown sugar, sage and cumin. The palate is full of wonderful complexity, combining flavors of mixed berries with deep undertones of dark chocolate, Turkish coffee, oregano and black tea. This beautiful wine is lively and sophisticated with a great depth, fantastic texture and refined tannins.

BLEND

81% Merlot
7% Cabernet Sauvignon
6% Cabernet Franc
3% Petit Verdot
3% Malbec

FERMENTATION

13–16 days in fermenters at 82–88°F;
pumped over twice daily

BARREL AGING

18 months in French, Hungarian &
American oak; 28% new oak

ALCOHOL | 14.2%

BRIX | 25.2

PH | 3.54

TA | 6.1 g/L

HARVEST DATES

September 8–October 7, 2021

VINE AGE | 11–35 years

SOILS

Low vigor, iron-rich