

2020 Merlot



Merlot 100%

Merlot Clone 181 Bordeaux, France

Alcohol 14.0%
Residual Sugar 0.5 g/L
Total Acidity 6.8 g/L
pH 3.87
Brix 27
Cases Produced 200
Released 2024
SKU 052189

VANESSA
VINEYARD

Flavour Profile

Our estate-grown Merlot opens with a rich nose of blackberry and savoury herbs. The palate leads with strawberries and dark cherries finishing with vanilla and subtle oak. Medium bodied and well balanced with a complex finish.

Growing Conditions

The 2020 growing season started well with great weather conditions throughout April. May and June experienced somewhat cool, wet conditions which slowed growth, disrupting some spring bud development and challenging the short period of flowering thereby reducing crop load in the vineyard. July and August provided consistent sunshine, high heat, and a few timely rainy days. September to mid-October continued with very warm weather allowing the fruit to reach full maturity and ripeness. While the Growing Degree Days at Vanessa Vineyard for 2020 were at 1,678, which was slightly lower than in 2019 at 1,687 the overall outcome was a fantastic growing season. This vintage of wines is proving to be very age-worthy and shows incredible potential.

Winemaking

Crafted from only 100% estate grown and hand-picked fruit. The grapes were destemmed and underwent a gentle crush before small-batch fermentation and hand punch down to maximize flavour and extraction. This cuvée is almost entirely comprised of free run juice with only a small quantity of pressed juice added to balance the tannins. Fermented and barrel aged for 20 months in mainly new and one-year-old American and French oak barrels that were medium-plus toast. Beautiful integration of the soil minerality gives the wine exceptional character and quality. Only 8 barrels produced.