

VANESSA

V I N E Y A R D

Carved from stone, fuelled by sun, a vineyard like no other.

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2021 Merlot



Merlot 100%

Merlot Clone 181 Bordeaux, France

Alcohol 16.1%
Residual Sugar 1.5 g/L
Total Acidity 5.58 g/L
pH 3.86
Brix 27.5
Cases Produced 353
Released 2025
SKU 052189

VANESSA
VINEYARD

Flavour Profile

Our estate-grown Merlot opens with ripe aromas of plum, strawberry, and red berries. The palate reveals juicy fruit layered with vanilla, cocoa, and gentle baking spice. Medium-bodied with refined acidity and soft tannins, it lingers with a polished, elegant finish.

Growing Conditions

The 2021 growing season began with steady vine development following a cooler spring. In late June, a significant heat dome brought prolonged extreme temperatures during a sensitive stage of berry development, necessitating increased irrigation to sustain vine health. These conditions resulted in smaller berries and reduced cluster weights, leading to lower yields and a higher skin-to-juice ratio. The outcome was enhanced colour, tannin structure, and flavour concentration in the fruit. The remainder of the season unfolded under stable conditions, supporting even ripening and optimal phenolic development.

Wines from the 2021 vintage reflect the season's intensity, showing depth, structure, and concentration. The red wines in particular display a fuller body, elevated alcohol, and a riper flavour profile, while maintaining balance and clear varietal expression.

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 14 barrels produced.