

HAYES VALLEY



2021 HAYES VALLEY MERITAGE

The Hayes Valley Meritage is a true homage to the traditional blends that are crafted in the Bordeaux region of France, well known for its cooler climate and often overcast and muggy summers. Areas throughout California, like the Central Coast, are known for their cooler climate and dreary foggy mornings. This gives the Bordeaux varietals a chance to develop more intense and complex flavors that you won't find in a hotter climate style of blend. Flavors and aromas of mushroom and slate coupled with black fruits and a mild tannin structure, mimic the idealistic style that comes from one of the best wine grape growing regions in the world.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2021 growing season was another unique season from start to finish throughout California. With most of the state back in a severe drought situation, bud break started early due to extremely dry soils throughout California's vineyards. Luckily, it was a very mild spring and there were very few reported cases of frost. Mild temperatures stayed right through and into the Summer. The Summer was mild to cool compared to historical averages and there were no major heat events or spikes. Having the mild temperatures allowed for a prolonged growing season and optimal ripening temperatures right into the Fall. The Harvest for much of the state began 1 week to 10 days earlier than the previous 3 seasons due to the vines being subjected to absolute perfect ripening weather. By the time any late October rain event came, they were welcomed as a natural dose of water after harvest as many vineyards had already harvested roughly 95% of their grapes. Another premium growing season with outstanding quality marking 4 straight years of above average wine quality in the cellar.

WINEMAKING NOTES

During fermentation, the Hayes Valley Meritage wine is pumped over 4 times per day during peak fermentation to maximize extraction. Post fermentation the wine is held on skins for 24 hours to extend maceration and provide even more color and tannin extraction. The Meritage is the best representation of a winemaker using all the tools he has to make the best wine possible. This wine is crafted over several tasting sessions with the winemaking team, fine tuning all aspects from flavor and aromas, to structure and mouthfeel.

TASTING NOTES

Color: Dark purple

Aroma: Sage, licorice, blackberry

Structure: Medium body

Flavors: Chocolate, currants, black olives

Pairings: Pot roast, French onion soup, Italian sausage pasta

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Vineyard: 100% California Vineyards

Blend: 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot

Aged: 14 months in 25% New French Oak, 75% Neutral French Oak

Harvest Date: Sept 2nd – Oct 29th

Average Brix at Harvest: 24.0

PH: 3.59

TA: 0.69

Alcohol: 13.5%

Sugar: 0.05g/L

