

CHELSEA

Goldschmidt

MERLOT 2020 DRY CREEK VALLEY SALMON'S LEAP

VINTAGE

2020

VARIETAL

100% Merlot

APPELLATION

Dry Creek Valley

VINEYARD / ELEVATION

Salmon's Leap, 200ft

SOILS

Sandy loam

PRUNING / TRELLIS

Cane pruned / Lyre / VSP

VINEYARD NOTES

The fruit for our delicious Merlot wine hails from our personal 4-acre Salmons Leap Vineyard at our home in Dry Creek Valley. The valley's river soils provide sufficient water retention to ward off dehydration, but not enough to allow the vigorous Merlot variety to over-produce. Cane-pruning further ensures desired sugar and tannin levels. Too often Merlot under delivers; dry tannins and a distinct lack of fruit prevail instead of depth and volume of fruit in the mouth. We look for a Cabernet-type of Merlot - One that is full, ripe, and totally over-delivers. Fresh fruit is the order of the day, but fruit with depth and complexity that only comes from superior vineyards and meticulous winemaking.

VINES / ROOTSTOCK / CLONE

30+ Years, 110R, Clone 337

HARVEST DATE

Hand Harvested 9/25/2020

HARVEST YIELD

3.81 tones per acre

ALCOHOL / TA / pH

14.5% / 6.0g/L / 3.67

FILTERING

Unfined / Unfiltered / Vegan

WOOD PROGRAM

100% French/ 20% New Oak

CELLARING POTENTIAL

10 Years

CASES PRODUCED

483, 12-PACKS

WINEMAKER

Nick Goldschmidt

VINTAGE NOTES

Rainfall for 2020 was perhaps two thirds of the average range. Rains in March and April made a huge impact for helping the vines get through the summer hot days and cool nights. The early warmth precipitated harvest being about 10 days ahead of historical Sonoma County vintages. Dry Creek has intermittent fog layers coming in from the coast every 3 days, but the crop was still devastatingly small at 60% of normal. A light and rare vintage.

TASTING NOTES

This wine has a mid-purple color. Our vineyard highlights the best characteristics that we love in a merlot. Intense dark red fruit in the nose. Notes of plum and black cherry combined with subtle notes of cassis and mocha; dark chocolate and blonde tobacco create a complex and aromatic wine. The ripe and rund tannins linger in your mouth creating an everlasting finish.

