



Orin Swift

Assembled from five Bordeaux varieties, Papillon is both hedonistic and intellectual - a modern California expression rooted in old-world tradition.

Papillon 2020

California, USA

O R I N S W I F T

Region and Vineyards

Sourced from a mosaic of premier sites across **Napa Valley**, Papillon 2020 showcases the complexity of the region through a blend of multiple varietals and terroirs. Fruit was carefully selected from vineyards including **Morisoli, Taplin, Lewelling, Stagecoach, Indian Joe**, and the historic **Monte Rosso Vineyard** on Moon Mountain. These sites offer a broad spectrum of soil types, elevations, and microclimates—each contributing to the wine's layered profile.

The rugged terrain of Stagecoach and Monte Rosso brings minerality and tannic structure, while the benchland vineyards of Rutherford and St. Helena add rich fruit and suppleness. In 2020, a challenging vintage due to climatic and environmental conditions, the selection process was exceptionally rigorous. Only the best-performing lots were retained, making this vintage a testament to precision blending and vineyard expression.

Winemaking

Papillon is crafted as a **Bordeaux-style blend** comprising **Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot, and Petit Verdot**. Each varietal was fermented separately to preserve its individuality before final blending. In total, the wine spent **16 months in French oak barrels**, with **52% new oak**, lending it a firm backbone, spice, and finesse.

Bottled at **15.5% alcohol**, Papillon displays the richness and power expected from Napa Valley while remaining balanced through its acidity and polished tannin profile. The extended oak maturation helps integrate the wine's dense fruit and structural components, offering both immediate drinkability and cellaring potential.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep crimson core with a garnet-brick rim.
- **Aroma:** Aromatically complex with notes of blackcurrant, blackberry, blue fruits, anise, lavender, and fresh brioche.
- **Palate:** Full and enveloping with layers of mixed berry pie, sarsaparilla, cola, and cassis. The mid-palate is weighty yet elegant, leading to a finish of chalky tannins reminiscent of black tea and dark chocolate, lifted by subtle sweet oak.



Alcohol :15,50 %

Composition: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petite Syrah, 8% Merlot, 6% Syrah, 6% Cabernet Franc



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Did you know?

The label for Papillon is a black-and-white photograph taken by renowned photographer and winemaker **Greg Gorman**, capturing a pair of tattooed hands grasping each other. It is a visual metaphor for strength, solidarity, and artistry—paralleling the wine itself, which unites structure and expression into a cohesive whole. The name *Papillon* (French for butterfly) nods subtly to transformation, complexity, and freedom in winemaking.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted rack of lamb with rosemary jus:** A robust pairing that complements the wine's tannic depth and earthy notes.
- **Venison medallions with blackcurrant reduction:** Accentuates the dark fruit and spice character of the blend.
- **Wild mushroom and truffle risotto:** Matches the umami and richness of the palate.
- **Aged gouda or bleu d'Auvergne:** Bold cheeses that stand up to the wine's structure and finish.



Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2019)

Fruit fans will dig this for its open and inviting display of açai berry, plum sauce and warmed cassis aromas and flavors, all laced with melted black licorice and given a light mocha cloak on the broad, polished finish. A subtle savory tobacco element in the background adds a counterpoint, but this is aimed squarely at the hedonist crowd. (JM)



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2019)

A blend of all five Bordeaux varieties, the 2019 Papillon Red Wine is a full-bodied, open-knit effort marked by pronounced notes of cedar, mocha and black cherries. (JC)

