Orin Swift

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

ORIN SWIFT

Papillon 2021

California, USA

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.

Decanter (DCT) : 94 Points (2021)

A proprietary red blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot, and Petit Verdot aged 13 months in 44% new French oak. This is a powerful wine. Very robust tannins with immaculate grip and a host of palate arresting tannins that do resolve and give way to red and blackberry fruit notes. Serve it at cellar temperature in large Bordeaux stems after an hour's worth of decanting, and it will reveal more dark berry fruits and spices with better integration of its toasted cedarwood notes, framed by plenty of ripe acidity and these long beams of cedar tannins. (JC)

Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2021)

A blend of five Bordeaux varieties, the 2021 Papillon Red Wine is marked by scents of mint, crushed stone, cassis and black cherries. It's full-bodied and expansive, framed by ripe, silky tannins, then finishes long and mouthwatering. With more than 35,000 cases produced and a street price as much as $20 below the suggested retail, it's a wine that should win the Orin Swift brand many fans. (JC)

Wine Spectator (WS) : 90 Points (2021)

A dark, winey style, with linzer torte and blackberry confiture notes that feel rather steeped, as licorice, mocha and sweet tobacco notes fill in on the polished finish. For fans of the more obvious style. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2031. 18,400 cases made.