



Orin Swift

A commanding expression of Napa Valley's finest terroirs, Orin Swift Mercury Head 2021 captures intensity, complexity, and elegance in a single bottle.

ORIN SWIFT

Mercury Head Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The 2021 vintage of Mercury Head is anchored in the **diverse terroirs of Napa Valley**, drawing from four of the region's most prestigious vineyard sites. High-elevation fruit comes from the **Stagecoach and Warnock vineyards on Atlas Peak**, where volcanic soils and cooler temperatures yield smaller berries and intense phenolic concentration. These sites contribute firm tannins, graphite minerality, and a notable freshness to the blend. The altitude also ensures a long growing season, allowing grapes to reach optimum ripeness while retaining natural acidity.

Complementing these mountainous sources are valley floor sites of historical significance. The **Morisoli Vineyard in Rutherford**, renowned for its deep, gravelly loam, provides supple texture and the signature "Rutherford dust" character—an earthy nuance unique to the area. Finally, fruit from the **Taplin Vineyard in St. Helena** imparts opulent fruit expression, adding layers of blackberry and violet lift. This careful geographical triangulation gives Mercury Head its profound depth, balancing power, elegance, and site fidelity.

Winemaking

Mercury Head 2021 is crafted exclusively from **100% Cabernet Sauvignon**, marking a return to varietal purity after previous vintages included small percentages of other Bordeaux varieties. Each parcel was harvested and vinified separately to preserve its individual character. Fermentation occurred in small lots with precise temperature control, enabling optimal extraction of color, flavor, and structure.

The wine was aged for **13 months in French oak**, of which **43% was new**, lending aromatic finesse and textural polish without overwhelming the varietal character. The winemaking team employed minimal intervention—eschewing fining and filtration—to maintain authenticity and depth. The result is a wine of bold presence, polished tannins, and remarkable aging potential, built on meticulous vineyard sourcing and restrained craftsmanship.



Alcohol :15,50 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet
Sauvignon



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Nearly black at the core with a garnet rim, intensely opaque and glass-staining.
- **Aroma:** Dense aromas of blackcurrant, graphite, crushed violets, espresso, and cigar box mingle with undertones of warm spice and wet stone.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and structured, with layers of ripe black cherry, cassis, and dark chocolate. Fine-grained tannins offer a polished framework, while fresh acidity drives a long, mineral-laced finish.

Did you know?

Each bottle of Mercury Head bears a real **Liberty Head dime**, a tribute to the beauty of early American currency. The label-less presentation speaks to Orin Swift's philosophy: let the wine speak for itself. The name "Mercury Head" comes from a common misnomer—the Liberty dime's image is often mistaken for Mercury, the Roman god of speed and communication.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Ribeye with Garlic Herb Butter:** Elevates the wine's bold tannins and savory depth.
- **Braised Short Ribs with Polenta:** Matches the wine's richness with a luxurious, slow-cooked dish.
- **Black Truffle Risotto:** Enhances the earthy and floral notes of the Cabernet.
- **Aged Gouda or Comté:** Complements the wine's complexity with nutty, crystalline textures.



Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

Winemaker, creative director and founder Dave Phinney says of Mercury Head, "It's the easiest, shortest story—it's just the best [expletive] Cabernet we think we can make in Napa Valley." With fruit derived from several sources, including the Taplin-Lewelling Vineyard across Highway 29 from the Louis Martini winery, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Mercury Head is gently herbal, with those elements adding complexity to the cassis and black cherry fruit, plus there's a hint of dark chocolate as well. Full-bodied, rich and concentrated, this ripe, fruit-driven wine finishes velvety and long.



Wine Spectator (WS) : 91 Points (2021)

Juicy and forward, with boysenberry, açai and blackberry fruit paste flavors that glide atop the polished structure and are coated with a creamy swath of toast. This will have fans for sure. (JM)

