Ramey

Ramey Claret 2018 is an approachable Bordeaux-style blend crafted from prestigious vineyard sites across California's North Coast , offering a balance of ripe fruit, supple tannins, and layered complexity.

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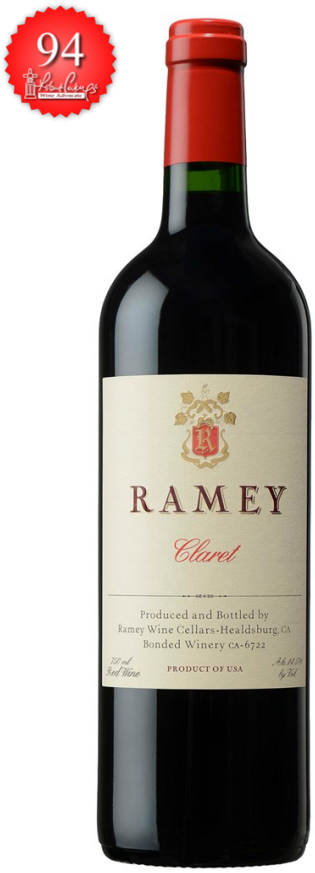

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 9% Syrah, 2% Petit Verdot

Claret 2018

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The **North Coast AVA**, spanning Sonoma and Napa Counties, is the source of this multi-site blend, drawing from some of the region's most distinguished vineyards. Key vineyard locations include **Alexander Valley (28%)**, **Mount Veeder (22%)**, **Sonoma County (20%)**, **Oakville (10%)**, **Russian River Valley (9%)**, **Oak Knoll (8%)**, and **Napa Valley (3%)**. These sites contribute diverse characteristics, from the robust structure of mountain fruit to the supple richness of valley-floor vines.

The **2018 growing season** was marked by exemplary weather, with a drier spring than the previous year. Consistently mild conditions allowed for a good berry set, while cooler late summer temperatures extended hang times, promoting even ripening and enhancing complexity. Harvest occurred between **September 17 and October 18**, later than in previous vintages, resulting in exceptional fruit quality.

Winemaking

The blend for the 2018 Claret comprises **55% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **24% Merlot**, **10% Cabernet Franc**, **9% Syrah**, and **2% Petit Verdot**, following the Bordelaise model of combining multiple Bordeaux varietals. This method adds depth and nuance to the final wine.

After fermentation, malolactic fermentation was completed in barrels, and the blend was assembled early, allowing the wine to age cohesively. The wine rested on its lees for **18 months** in **20% new French and American oak barrels**, with monthly **bâtonnage** to coat the tannins and enhance the texture. Lightly fined with egg whites, the wine was bottled **unfiltered** in **June 2020**.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby red, with brilliant clarity and vibrancy.
- **Aromas**: Enticing notes of **red cherry**, **blackcurrant**, and **plum**, complemented by subtle hints of **vanilla**, **cedar**, and a touch of spice.
- **Palate**: Medium to full-bodied, with silky tannins and flavors of **ripe dark fruit**, **mocha**, and **herbs**. The finish is smooth and lingering, with balanced acidity and a cushioned mouthfeel.

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Did you know?

The term **Claret** refers to the traditional name used in England for Bordeaux-style red wines. This wine honors that tradition while reflecting the unique terroirs of California's **North Coast AVA**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary and garlic**: Enhances the wine's herbal and fruity notes.
- **Beef bourguignon**: Complements its richness and layered flavors.
- **Mushroom risotto with truffle oil**: Highlights its earthy undertones and smooth texture.
- **Aged cheddar cheese**: Balances its structure and accentuates the fruit-forward profile.

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2018)

Deep ruby-purple, the 2018 Claret is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 9% Syrah and 2% Petit Verdot. It features blackcurrant aromas with accents of peppercorn, bacon, cedar, thyme and lavender. Full-bodied, its powerful, concentrated fruits are supported by finely grained tannins, and it has a long, still youthfully coiled finish. It will continue to unfold for several more years in bottle.

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 91 Points (2018)

The 2018 Claret is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 9% Syrah, and the rest Petit Verdot. It is fresh with aromas of graphitic earth and red plum, and the palate reveals fine tannins and the juicy, youthful appeal of red apple and crushed roses. This is ready and inviting to drink now or over the next 3-6 years.