Orin Swift

A quintessential expression of Napa Valley, Palermo 2021 showcases the commanding depth and polish of Cabernet Sauvignon through the lens of Orin Swift's signature style.

ORIN SWIFT

Palermo Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The 2021 Palermo is composed entirely of **Cabernet Sauvignon** sourced from a wide array of Napa Valley's premier vineyards. The fruit comes from both **valley floor and mountain sites**, offering a natural diversity of expression—from rich, dark fruit and structure to lifted aromatics and minerality. Among the highlighted vineyard sources are **Wolleson**, **Sun Lake**, and **Cypress**, each contributing unique qualities to the final wine.

The broad sourcing approach allows Orin Swift to reflect the **entire spectrum of Napa Valley terroir**, from volcanic hillside soils that build firm tannins to loamy valley sites that produce generous fruit profiles. Each vineyard lot is treated with the same meticulous attention given to the estate's flagship Mercury Head, undergoing numerous blending trials before earning a place in the final cuvée. This commitment to precision yields a Cabernet that is both site-transparent and stylistically coherent.

Winemaking

Palermo 2021 is vinified with the house philosophy of **blending precision and boldness**, crafted entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon. Each lot undergoes separate fermentation, tailored to its site-specific characteristics. Following fermentation, the wine is aged for **11 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels**, with **34% new oak**, which imparts spice, toast, and depth.

With an alcohol level of **15.2%**, the wine maintains an impressive balance through freshness and fine-grained tannins. The blending process is guided by the same principles used for Orin Swift's most prized wines: complexity, structure, and a seamless mouthfeel. The result is a Cabernet of substance and style—built to impress yet immediately enjoyable.

Alcohol :15,20 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet with an inky core and a luminous ruby edge.
- **Aroma**: Classic cassis and blackberry dominate, layered with notes of dark chocolate, toasted oak, and cedar.
- **Palate**: Generous on entry with a flood of dark fruit, supported by mid-palate flavors of redcurrant, bay leaf, and reemerging cassis. The finish is polished, with supple tannins and a subtle vein of minerality that lingers gracefully.

Did you know?

While Mercury Head represents Orin Swift's pinnacle of Cabernet purity, **Palermo is crafted with the same rigor**—each lot initially considered for Mercury Head is assessed for balance and integration, then either retained or redirected to Palermo. This makes Palermo a true reflection of the winemaker's ethos: excellence through detail, even in the estate's more accessible offerings.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled New York Strip with rosemary jus**: Echoes the wine's dark fruit and herbal nuances.
- **Beef Bourguignon**: Deep, slow-cooked flavors pair harmoniously with the wine's tannic structure.
- **Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms with truffle oil**: Earthy and rich, enhancing the wine's savory complexity.
- **Aged cheddar or Manchego**: Hard, sharp cheeses match the wine's intensity and polish.

94 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 94 Points (2021)

100% Cabernet Sauvignon aged 11 months in 34% new oak. Alluring aromas of ripe blackberry and black cherry fruit, spiced plums and nuances of clove and tobacco laced with vanilla. Full-bodied with absolutely riveting tannins that take centre stage, fueling a panoply of deep mid-palate dark berry fruits that build in stature and length on the finish, resolving in decadent waves of dark chocolate notes and fragrant red powdery spices. (JC)

93 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 93 Points (2021)

A luscious, dark-berry center is surrounded by plush tannins and a full body in this broad, rather tannic but soothing wine. Dark chocolate, cocoa and baked blueberries give a lot of mouthfilling satisfaction as you sip. (JG)

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Palermo Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2021)

A vibrant red, with a tasty burst of boysenberry and blackberry compote notes leading the way. Displaying singed alder, cocoa, tobacco and licorice snap elements, this offers enough energy to keep the finish going. Drink now through 2034. (JM)