

Kendall-Jackson

Crafted from cool-climate coastal vineyards, it highlights Sonoma County's ability to produce Merlot with both elegance and depth.



Vintner's Reserve Merlot 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

This wine is sourced entirely from **Sonoma County**, where Merlot thrives in the county's diverse terroirs. The cool Pacific influence tempers the sunny California climate, ensuring **long growing seasons with marked diurnal variation**. This allows the grapes to ripen fully while preserving acidity, giving Merlot both plush fruit and structural backbone.

The soils across Sonoma's Merlot vineyards vary from **volcanic loams to alluvial gravels**, adding complexity and mineral tension to the wines. Hillside vineyards contribute concentration and darker fruit notes, while valley floor sites offer freshness and rounder tannins. Together, these terroirs create a wine that is layered, approachable, and expressive of its origin.



The 2021 Vintner's Reserve Merlot is a blend of **96% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec, and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon**. Each lot is vinified separately, allowing the winemaking team to carefully select the final blend for balance and harmony.

Aged 15 months in oak barrels—65% French (8% new) and 35% American (10% new)—the wine achieves a polished balance between ripe fruit and gentle oak influence. With 14.5% alcohol, pH 3.62, and total acidity of 5.5 g/L, the result is a Merlot that combines richness with freshness, framed by supple tannins and subtle spice.

Tasting Notes

- Color: Deep ruby with purple highlights.
- **Aroma:** Blackberry bramble, ripe cherry, cream, caramel, and hints of black pepper spice.
- **Palate:** Juicy red fruit and blackberry are layered with toasty oak, lively acidity, dark chocolate, and spicy tannins, finishing long and elegant.



Alcohol :14,50 % Composition: 96% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon,

1% Malbec







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Did you know?

Merlot was once California's **most planted Bordeaux variety**, prized for its soft texture and approachability. In Sonoma County, winemakers increasingly highlight its **serious side**, producing Merlots with depth and structure rivaling Cabernet Sauvignon .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted pork tenderloin** the wine's cherry and spice notes resonate beautifully with rosemary and thyme.
- **Roast chicken with wild mushrooms** earthy flavors highlight the Merlot's mocha and dark fruit layers.
- **Grilled salmon with red wine reduction** the wine's acidity and supple tannins complement rich, oily fish.
- Semi-hard cheeses like Comté or Gruyère the nutty, savory profile pairs seamlessly with Merlot's plush fruit.



