



# Kendall-Jackson

A polished Merlot from Sonoma County, rich in expressive fruit and crafted with Jackson Estate precision.



## Vintner's Reserve Merlot 2021

California, USA

### Region and Vineyards

Kendall-Jackson sources the Vintner's Reserve Merlot exclusively from **Sonoma County**, one of California's most revered AVAs for premium red wines. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Mayacamas Mountains, Sonoma's diverse microclimates and marine-influenced temperatures provide a long, even growing season. This terroir is particularly well-suited to Merlot, which thrives in its well-drained soils and benefits from both warm days and cool nights.

The estate's commitment to sustainable viticulture, through the **Jackson Estate Vineyard Stewardship**, ensures that every vineyard block is meticulously matched to the ideal grape variety. This approach results in Merlot that is not only expressive of place but also cultivated with future generations in mind. Kendall-Jackson's deep-rooted presence in Sonoma has allowed them to refine their vineyard selections for this cuvée, drawing from the finest blocks for optimal fruit purity and structure.

### Winemaking

The 2021 Vintner's Reserve Merlot is crafted with a **blend of 96% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec, and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon**, enhancing depth and complexity. The wine underwent a carefully controlled fermentation to preserve the vibrant fruit character and was then aged for **15 months in a combination of French (65%) and American oak (35%)**, with a modest percentage of new barrels—**8% French and 10% American**—to impart nuance without overshadowing the fruit.

Director of Winemaking Randy Ullom and winemaker Susan Lueker maintain a balanced approach that emphasizes texture, vibrancy, and integration. Their proprietary methods aim for a house style marked by **intensity, structure, and a seamless finish**, ensuring this Merlot remains a benchmark of California craftsmanship.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 96% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Malbec



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## Tasting Notes

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- **Color:** Deep ruby with a garnet hue at the rim.
- **Aroma:** Aromatic layers of blackberry brambles and cherry compote with touches of caramel, cream, and cracked black pepper.
- **Palate:** Juicy red fruits lead with cherry and blackberry, supported by toasty oak and vibrant acidity. The finish is framed by supple tannins and notes of dark chocolate and spice.

## Did you know?

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Kendall-Jackson's Vintner's Reserve range, introduced in the 1980s, helped define the modern style of approachable, fruit-forward California wines. The Merlot remains one of their most awarded and best-selling bottlings, consistently praised for its quality and value.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

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- **Grilled Lamb Chops:** The wine's structure and spice complement the savoury char and richness of lamb.
- **Beef Stroganoff:** Creamy textures and umami flavours highlight the Merlot's smooth tannins and berry notes.
- **Portobello Mushroom Burger:** A vegetarian match where earthy flavours echo the wine's depth.
- **Aged Gouda:** The caramel undertones of the cheese resonate with the wine's toasty oak and chocolatey finish.



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