

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2022 Merlot, Napa Valley

Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. Eleven acres of Merlot vines have been planted in the rocky soils surrounding the winery, and it is these vines that produce some of the finest Merlot in Napa. The vineyards are situated above the dense layer of fog that creeps up the Napa Valley most evenings. Consequently the vines warm up earlier in the morning and stay warm through the night. The combination of warm temperatures, steep hillside vine rows and gravelly soils promotes more stress on the vines leading to increased intensity in the finished wine.

The 2022 Keenan Merlot is composed of eighty-four percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Sixteen percent of the wine is Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from ten to fourteen days.

The '22 Merlot has been aged in thirty-three percent new French and American oak barrels for eighteen months. The resulting wine shows intense aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and cassis. Complex nuances of cocoa and coffee bean emerge as the wine opens up. This is a “big” Merlot that will age for many years to come.

James Suckling Wine Ratings, March 2025

91 Points “Crushed blackberries and currants as well as hints of dried herbs, spices and tobacco. Medium- to full-bodied, juicy and polished with some tightness in the end, providing lingering nuances of cedar and cloves. Drink or hold.”

James Suckling

Vinous, Antonio Galloni, December 2024

91 Points “The 2022 Merlot is an attractive mid-weight offering from Keenan. Bright red-toned fruit, cinnamon, new leather and cedar are front and center. The 2022 retains lovely freshness and vibrancy to round things out. Give this a year or two in the cellar.”

Antonio Galloni

Wine Data

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.60 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.64
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 2, 2024
Production:	1,037 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Sources:	84% Estate Merlot 16% Merlot Napa Carneros