

Keenan



Napa Valley  
Spring Mountain District

## 2019 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 2019 Keenan Merlot is composed of eighty-seven percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Thirteen 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 '19 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, April 2022

**92 Points:** "A soft and juicy red with plum, tile and blackberry aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied and juicy with a black-olive undertone. A blend of estate, mountain fruit and Carneros. Drink or hold."- James Suckling

### The Wine Advocate, September 2022

**91 Points:** "Mostly from the estate's Spring Mountain property, with a bit of Carneros fruit as well, Keenan's 2019 Merlot features attractive scents of black cherries, mocha and toasted oak. This 100% Merlot is medium to full-bodied, smooth, silky, nicely rounded and ripe, with decent length. It's a solid all-around effort that sells for a reasonable price."- Joe Czerwinski

### Wine Data:

<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.3%
<b>Total Acidity:</b>	0.59 grams/100 ml
<b>pH:</b>	3.60
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	Dry
<b>Bottling Date:</b>	July 1, 2021
<b>Production:</b>	1,926 cases
<b>Blend:</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Vineyard Sources:</b>	87% Estate Merlot 13% Merlot Napa Carneros