

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2021 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 2021 Keenan Merlot is composed of eighty-three percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Seventeen 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 '21 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.

REVIEWS:

James Suckling Wine Ratings, March 2024

92 Points: "Dark cherries, chocolate wafers, vanilla and sweet spices on the nose follow through to a medium to full body with creamy tannins. Round, fruit-driven and creamy, with a velvety texture. Caressing texture and a voluptuous finish. Drink or hold."

WINE DATA:

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.61 grams/100ml
pH:	3.59
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	June 29th, 2023
Production:	1536 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Sources:	83% Estate Merlot 17% Merlot Napa Carneros