



MERLOT

Sonoma County
2022

WINEMAKERS	Justin Seidenfeld, Olivia Wright
ALCOHOL	14.5%
TA	0.60g/100mL
PH	3.64
APPELLATION	Sonoma County
VARIETAL	78% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Malbec, 3% Zinfandel
CELLAR & FERMENTATION	12 months in French oak barrels, 25% new



OUR STORY

We at Rodney Strong are united by our passion for crafting the highest quality wines from the very best vineyards across Sonoma County. With over 60 years of family ownership and 1,158 acres of estate vineyards, we exemplify Cabernet and what it means to be world class Sonoma quality. We are united by our passion for Sonoma County, Cabernet Sauvignon and the belief that nothing brings people together better than sharing superb experiences with a great bottle of Rodney Strong wine.

HISTORY

We've been growing Merlot since the early 1970s, when Rod Strong first planted it in Geyserville, the heart of Alexander Valley. Today we continue to farm Merlot in three estate vineyards in Alexander Valley, where it grows into grapes that display the deep dark fruit flavors and mature tannins typical of a warmer American Viticultural Area.

THE VINTAGE AND VINEYARD

The 2022 vintage was dry and mild. Rain from the previous autumn was light, and the new year was warm and dry with daytime highs up to 70°F in early spring. After a few light sprinkles in the late spring and early summer, the temperature climbed into the triple digits a few days in June, but the season was mild overall, with most summer days peaking around 85-90°F. The balance of moderately high daytime temperatures and cool evenings yielded ideal flavor concentration and mild acidity. Due to the dry and seasonable weather, harvest came expectedly earlier than previous vintages, and we picked Merlot between September 8th and 13th.

TASTING

Our 2022 Sonoma County Merlot is velvety soft with notes of sweet black cherry, boysenberry compote and cassis. Medium bodied with lush tannins, this wine boasts toasty oak and spice on the mid-palate punctuated by a full and lively finish. These luscious dark fruit and toasty flavors are enhanced by aging in French oak barrels. Enjoy this soft and elegant Merlot with grilled pork chops and cherry reduction, lavender crusted lamb shanks or creamy polenta with a short rib ragu.

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SONOMA GROWN
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

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