MERLOT
SONOMA COUNTY
2021

WINEMAKERS	Justin Seidenfeld, Olivia Wright
ALCOHOL	14.5%
TA	0.60g/100mL
PH	3.61
APPELLATION	Sonoma County
VARIETAL	77% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Malbec, 2% Zinfandel
CELLAR & FERMENTATION	12 months in French oak barrels, 20% new

Certified Sustainable Winery
www.rodneystrong.com

OUR STORY
Started in 1959 by Sonoma County pioneer Rod Strong and led by the Klein family since 1989, Rodney Strong Vineyards is a family of passionate people committed to crafting premium wines, great experiences and delivering a vision for sustainability in Sonoma County. We are united by our passion for wine and the belief that nothing brings people together better than sharing 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
2021 was another fantastic vintage in California. In Sonoma County it started with a copious amount of rain saturating the soil in late winter and early spring. Early summer heat waves acclimated the vines to warmer weather, which allowed the grapes to withstand a later heat spell in August, moving the sugars higher and allowing flavors to ripen. With all things in balance, harvest took place September 4th through the 27th.

TASTING
Our 2021 Sonoma County Merlot is lush with notes of blackberry, fig compote and cassis. Medium bodied with soft 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.

Committed to Community Since 1959