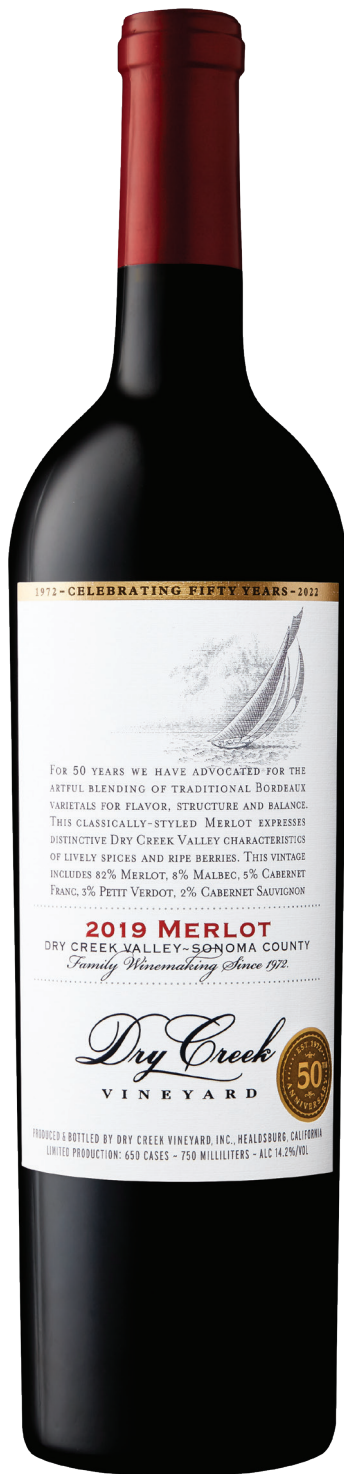




## 2019 MERLOT

Dry Creek Valley



### HISTORY

We have crafted this classic Bordeaux varietal since 1974. Our first vintage of Merlot was released in 1974, and we have produced this classic Bordeaux varietal ever since. In fact, the Dry Creek Vineyard 1991 Reserve Merlot won the prestigious “Grand Prix d’Honneur” at the 1995 Challenge International Du Vin in Bordeaux, France – much to the surprise of the French! This delicious varietal adds bright aromatics and a velvety mouthfeel as a blending component for our Bordeaux program, but it is outstanding as the dominant varietal as well.

### GROWING SEASON

Overall, 2019 was a mild growing season with a later start to the summer. This seasonal shift led to a longer hang time, which allowed for even ripening and full berry development, while retaining natural acidity. Harvest started about one week later than average compared to the last handful of vintages, and the mild growing conditions led to a very long season – fruit was being harvested for nearly 70 days! This extended season allowed us to pick each vineyard block at an ideal level of ripeness to produce balanced, flavorful wines with complexity and nuance.

### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

In our 2019 vintage, aromas of black cherry, plum and black currant immediately fill the senses. A few more moments reveal notes of nutmeg, cocoa and black and white pepper. The palate is full of wonderful complexity, combining flavors of blackberry and boysenberry. This wine features deep undertones of coriander, bay leaf and mocha with a bright finish and silky tannins. This beautiful wine has excellent structure and balance with a lush, round quality that lingers.

#### BLEND

82% Merlot  
8% Malbec  
5% Cabernet Franc  
3% Petit Verdot  
2% Cabernet Sauvignon

#### FERMENTATION

11–15 days in fermenters at 82–88°F;  
pumped over twice daily

#### BARREL AGING

20 months in French, Hungarian  
and American oak; 29% new oak

ALCOHOL | 14.2%

BRIX | 25.1

PH | 3.68

TA | 6.6 g/L

#### HARVEST DATES

September 26–October 12, 2019

VINE AGE | 9–24 years

#### SOILS

Low vigor, gravelly, iron-rich

#### YIELDS

4–6 tons per acre

92  
POINTS  
Wine & Spirits