

Opolo

2019 MERLOT

WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT

This 2019 Merlot is a limited-production reserve wine that comes from the coastal mountains of the Willow Creek District, where conditions are ideal for growing remarkable Bordeaux-style wines

Vineyards

The 2019 Merlot Reserve comes predominantly from Block A3 at Opolo's Quinn West estate vineyard. Here, rocky loam soils are marked by limestone fissures that add a calcareous component to the soil profile. This block is well drained but holds just enough moisture to allow for deficit irrigation, which helps create fruit with natural flavor intensity. The Merlot from this block is particularly notable for its deep color, rich tannins and luscious acidity. The vines were planted in 2001, and their maturity is evident in the wine's enchanting complexity.

Winemaking

The fruit was picked on October 25 in the wake of a steady growing season that provided excellent hang time. After harvesting, the fruit was cold soaked for three days for a gentle extraction of color and flavor. The fruit was fermented in a mix of open top bins and stainless steel fermenters over a period of 12 days. After fermentation, the free-run juice was separated and reserved exclusively for this reserve Merlot. The wine was matured in French oak barrels, inclusive of 35 percent new oak. Winemakers James Schreiner and Chris Rougeot selected barrels coopered by Tonnellerie Ô and Seguin Moreau to draw out the best in the wine. At the 15-month mark, the final blend was assembled, then returned to barrels for another two months of integration and aging prior to bottling.

Winemakers' Tasting Notes

The 2019 Willow Creek Merlot opens with vivid red fruit and chocolate-covered cherry aromas interlaced with hints of vanilla and coffee. A buoyant mouthfeel delivers flavors of red currant and black cherry with earthier notes of tobacco, clove and black olive. Chewy tannins and juicy acidity add length to a harmonious finish.

Varietal Composition

76% Merlot
16% Cabernet Sauvignon
6% Malbec
2% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Paso Robles

Sub AVAs

Willow Creek District

Aging

17 Months in French Oak
(35% New)

Analysis

TA: 6.8 g/L
pH: 3.77
Alc. by Volume: 14.8%
Cases Produced: 893

