

# Opolo

## 2023 MERLOT SUMMIT CREEK | PASO ROBLES

Named for the creek that runs through our westside estate vineyard, our Summit Creek line is dedicated to flagship grape varieties made in an approachable style, as exemplified by the 2023 Merlot. Opolo's passion for Merlot is reflected in the Paso Robles region's rise to prominence as an elite area for Bordeaux varieties.

### VINEYARDS

The 2023 Merlot comes from our Quinn West estate vineyard in the westside Willow Creek District (40%) and our Quinn East estate vineyard in the Estrella District (60%). Quinn West's calcareous clay soils and marine-moderated microclimate provides an ideal terroir for Merlot, with extended hang times that lasted until November 1 in 2023. The Merlot is one of the vineyard's original plantings dating back more than 20 years, providing dark fruit tones with ample tannin structure. In contrast, the warmer climate of Quinn East yields Merlot with softer red cherry flavors with lower acidity and high approachability. Together, these sites produce a Merlot with dimension and complexity. A small lot of Cabernet Sauvignon from Quinn Estate rounds out the wine with enhanced concentration.

### WINEMAKING

The fruit was handpicked in the early morning hours to ensure freshness and integrity. Each lot was cold soaked for three days, then fermented in stainless steel tanks over a period of 12 to 16 days. Winemakers James Schreiner and Skye Bruce conducted continual phenolic management during fermentation to create a balance of intense color and flavor with smooth, pleasurable tannins. The separate lots were aged with 25 percent new French oak for nine months. The final blend was assembled, then returned to barrels and aged for an additional month to ensure full integration. The blend was created with an eye toward the established Summit Creek style of fruit-forward approachability combined with fine structure and brushstrokes of French oak.

### WINEMAKERS' TASTING NOTES

The 2023 Summit Creek Merlot offers rich aromas of blue fruits, elderberry, cocoa nib and tobacco leaf with a waft of caramelized oak. A soft, supple mouthfeel unfolds with flavors of cherry, pomegranate, blackberry, eucalyptus and baking spice. Fresh textures heighten the fruit flavors on a full, seamless finish.

### VARIETAL COMPOSITION

Merlot 85%  
Cabernet Sauvignon 15%

### APPELLATION

Paso Robles

### ANALYSIS

TA: .61  
pH: 3.72  
Alc by Volume: 14.5%  
Cases Produced: 1,665

