



2021  
HANDMADE  
MERLOT - RUTHERFORD

### VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season began with very little rain, which set the tone for another drought year in Northern California. The crop was very light with small berries, which were high in flavor concentration and of amazing quality. A warm summer and early fall were ideal for ripening and maturity of the fruit. While a light crop year, the 2021 vintage was a winemakers delight with exceptional fruit quality.

### VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

In the heart of the Foley Johnson Rutherford Estate, our Merlot is farmed in the famous “Rutherford Dust” that yields small, yet intense clusters from well-balanced vines. The ideal growing conditions in the vineyard allow our Bordeaux varietals to reach full maturity on the vine without taking on any green, leafy taste of under-ripe fruit. The wine went through 100% malolactic fermentation and aged for 18 months in 45% new French oak before going into bottle on July 11, 2023.

### TASTING

This wine is an aromatic compilation of cherry, raspberry, blueberry, cinnamon, cedar, vanilla, and cocoa. The palate mirrors the bouquet, offering beautifully balanced acid and soft tannins through the elegant finish. Enjoy with rosemary leg of lamb, or blue cheese.

### STATISTICS

APPELLATION	Rutherford, Napa Valley	ALCOHOL	14.9%
VINEYARD	Foley Johnson Estate, Block 2	TA	6.93 g/L
COMPOSITION	90% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot	pH	3.43
AGING	18 months in French oak, 45% new	BOTTLING DATE	July 11, 2023
PRODUCTION	225 cases		