

Merlot

2023 MERLOT
NAPA VALLEY

93 POINTS: JEB DUNNUCK

Based on 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2% Malbec and aged 18 months in 100% new French oak, the 2023 Merlot offers up an outstanding bouquet of black cherries, graphite, spicy wood, and incense. Medium-bodied, with a round, supple mouthfeel and a great finish, this delicious, balanced, impeccably made Merlot will keep for 10-15 years. Drink 2025-2040.

- **Jeb Dunnuck**

92 POINTS: ANTONIO GALLONI

Shafer fans will be delighted to learn that the Merlot is back with the 2023. Bright acids lift a core of red fruit and blood orange. This cool-toned, refreshing Merlot is an absolute delight. Readers will find a wine of total sophistication.

- **Antonio Galloni**

UNPARALLELED VINTAGE

The exceptional 2023 vintage reveals layers of red plum, dark cherry, and raspberry, lifted by floral notes and warm spice. Fresh acidity and seamless tannins carry through a long, graceful finish.

- **Elias Fernandez, Shafer Winemaker**

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- A return to Shafer's Merlot tradition, first planted in 1981
- Crafted by winemaker Elias Fernandez
- Sourced from Yountville AVA and southern foothills of Napa Valley
- Aged 18 months in 100% new French oak for depth and structure
- A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Malbec for balance and complexity

