Shafer



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MERLOT · NAPA VALLEY

2024 Merlot

Few varieties are as deeply woven into Shafer's history as Merlot, first planted at the estate in 1981. Four decades of farming and winemaking have taught us exactly what this variety wants — and rewarded us with Merlot of bright, bold elegance that only experience can deliver.

RELEASE DATE	September 1, 2026
VINEYARD LOCATIONS	Sourced 96% from our estate School Bus Vineyard, nestled at the base of the Vaca Mountains in Napa Valley's southern foothills — a site whose rocky volcanic soils and cool afternoon breezes yield Merlot of uncommon depth and polish.
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
BRIX AT HARVEST	23.5° – 25.8°
COOPERAGE	16 months in 100% new French oak barrels (Allier & Tronçais)
ALCOHOL	15.3%

2024 GROWING SEASON

Generous winter rains carried vines through a warm, sun-filled summer, with healthy canopies buffering the season's heat spells. Harvest returned to classic Napa timing — mid-August into October — yielding deep color, bold flavors, and bright acidity in a true classic vintage.

"The 2024 growing season gave us Merlot of classic Napa Valley character — deep, dark, and generous. Layers of black cherry, ripe plum, and blackberry mingle with mocha, dried herbs, and a hint of violet, all supported by plush, rounded tannins. Bright acidity keeps the richness lively, carrying the wine to a long, polished finish that will only gain depth in the years ahead."

ELIAS FERNANDEZ, WINEMAKER