

SWITCHBACK ridge



Switchback Ridge 2022 Merlot

Peterson Family Vineyard, Calistoga, Napa Valley

268 cases produced (750 ml)

91% Merlot; 9% Petite Sirah

Aged 18 months in 100% French Oak

Sug. Retail Price: \$72/bottle

Tasting Notes

Dark ruby-red hues gleam from the glass of this 2022 Merlot. The nose delivers a fragrant bouquet of red cherry, raspberry, and black plum, further accentuated by beautiful floral notes of rose petals and fresh lilac. These same ripe fruit flavors continue on the palate, intermingling with layers of espresso, salted caramel, vanilla and savory spice. The tannins are soft and well-integrated, delivering an elegant, silky finish.

2022 Vintage Notes

The 2022 growing season was once again marked by another drought year and a record low crop yield. Our ranch typically yields 85-100 tons of fruit. In 2021 we only harvested 46 tons, and in 2022 we were down to only 42 tons. On top of the low yields, we experienced a brutal week-long stretch of triple-digit heat right before harvest that contributed to significant dehydration in the vineyard. Thanks to our experienced winemaking team and state of the art equipment at our new custom crush winery, we were able to weed out any overly dehydrated fruit and let Thomas do his magic. The wines are elegant in style and extremely approachable in their youth. Thomas' decision to blend more Petite Sirah into the Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon gave the wines that little bit of extra richness, concentration, and structure that they needed. Instead of setting aside our Clone 7 lot of Cabernet Sauvignon for our Reserve program, we decided to blend it into our regular Cab bottling to elevate the overall quality and intensity of the wine. All three wines are drinking exceptionally well and bring immediate gratification. This is a fruit forward, silky tannin vintage that is made for early consumption. Even the Petite Sirah can be consumed in this decade!

