



## 2021 CUVÉE ÉQUITÉ

*Napa Valley*

- Release Date:** January, 2024
- Production:** 8 Barrels
- Varietal:** 74% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Malbec
- Vineyards:** Merlot: Napa Valley AVA – Sugarloaf Vineyard and Somerston Estate  
Cabernet Sauvignon: Rutherford AVA - Haworth  
Malbec: Napa Valley AVA
- Team:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors  
Kirk Venge, Winemaker  
Andrew Bohi, Director of Operations
- Cooperage:** Aged for 22 months in French oak, 50% new.
- Vintage Notes:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a drought year for the valley, with a resulting drop in yields. However, the overall quality of the vintage is superb thanks to those smaller berries bringing an increased concentration of both fruit and structure. Early spring saw periods of unseasonable warmth alongside the occasional cool night which did create some frost concerns, but a little vigilance in the vineyards kept any damage at bay. Summer and early fall provided heat that cycled between warm days and cool nights which allowed for a very smooth harvest about 1-2 weeks earlier than average.
- Wine Notes:** In Bordeaux, the river Gironde divides the wine making region into two parts, the Left and Right Bank. The Left Bank focuses on Cabernet driven wines promoting structure, while the Right Bank is built upon Merlot and produces rich, balanced and inviting wines. What does all of this have to do with winemaking in Napa? Well, nothing really as the forces that shape our valley are quite different, but the long tradition of Merlot focused wines along the Right Bank of Bordeaux did provide the inspiration for our Cuvée Équité.
- This wine is a thank you to our investors who believed in this project before the winery existed and were an integral part of its creation. It is now and forever dedicated to all those who hold equity in our dream and help to make this pursuit of ours possible.
- Tasting Notes:** Complex notes of sandalwood, crème de caramel, and rocky soil swirl around ripe and fresh fruit scents of black raspberry, Japanese plum and cherry licorice. The palate exhibits lovely balance, with flavors of red and black fruit compote alongside hints of nutmeg and cinnamon, finishing with polished tannins and refreshing acidity.
- Aging Advice:** Though tempting to enjoy early, the balanced structure will allow for steady evolution over the next 7-10 years.