

GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU

THE SONOMA ORIGINAL



2022 ESTATE MERLOT

Sonoma Valley, Sonoma County

2000 Denmark St
Sonoma Ca. 95476

gunbun.com

VINTAGE NOTES

The first half of the 2022 growing season in Sonoma was ideal, with plenty of early season rains and moderate temperatures throughout the spring and early summer. As the summer progressed, so did the heat, with multiple heat events intensifying as we progressed towards a multi-day heat spike around Labor Day. Thankfully, our organically farmed vines were prepared for this. With a deep connection to their surroundings through our holistic farming practices, these vines know when to shut down and save their reserves. Ultimately, the 2022 growing season ended with spectacular quality and lower quantity, which will lead to more concentrated reds and fuller bodied whites.

VINEYARD INFORMATION

It was an exceptional vintage across Sonoma, with a slow, cool growing season with plentiful rain. Tracking about a month behind our typical harvest, it was one of the coolest and latest vintages we've seen on Rhinefarm in recent history, with grapes coming into the winery into November. With roughly 150% of our average rainfall, combined with cooler temperatures in both spring and summer, our soil was nourished and canopies grew abundantly. The grapes developed gradually and enjoyed extra ripening time through the slow season. The consistently cool climate created complex, balanced and elegant wines, distinctly highlighting our terroir.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2022 Estate Merlot is the harmonious centerpiece of our portfolio, offering a perfect balance that appeals to a wide range of palates. Aromas of cappuccino, olallieberry jam, and tobacco leaf create an inviting bouquet. On the palate, distinct layers of flint, graphite, and subtle herbal nuances reminiscent of Douglas sage and dream herb (*Calea zacatechichi*) lend complexity and intrigue. Medium-bodied with silky tannins, this wine is the ideal companion to hearty dishes such as short rib ragu, classic ossobuco, or a comforting lentil soup.

COMPOSITION, WINEMAKING + COOPERAGE

85.7% Merlot, 7.7% Petit Verdot, 5.8% Cabernet Franc, 0.8% Petit Sirah

ALC / PH / ACID

Alc: 14.50%, pH: 3.65 TA: 6 g/L

UPC

Bottle: 8 10099 71020 5

Case SCC: 0 08 10099 71020 5

SONG PAIRING

"Come On In," by Lady Wray

PRICE + PRODUCTION

\$48.00, 2014 cases produced

