

CHATEAU MONTELENA

Chateau Montelena's 19th century stone structure stands as a quality icon in Napa Valley, consistently producing some of the finest wines in California.



Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

Napa Valley, California

ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

WINE

Jim Barrett's dream of Chateau Montelena was that this wine, their flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, achieve the balance and complexity of flavors, aromas and textures to be considered among the great examples of Cabernet in the world. Almost since his first vintages in the 1970s, this wine has been a show-stopper that has everything in place, while revealing the majesty and distinctive character of the estate vineyard site that the Barretts led to recognition as its own appellation, Calistoga. Today, the 50-year legacy of excellence in farming, crafting and blending compelling wines and continued innovation is what sets Chateau Montelena Winery apart.

VINEYARD

Soils: The diversity of soils and slopes in the Estate Vineyard directly translates to layers of complexity and depth in the glass. It is comprised of varied terrain, from flat to steep hillsides with sedimentary, alluvial and volcanic soils
Farming: This wine is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is sustainably farmed and produced in their solar powered winery.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 99% Cabernet Sauvignon, 0.5% Petit Verdot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc
Fermentation: Temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to allow the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.
Aging: 22 months in French oak barrels (40% new)
Alcohol: 14.1% ABV

VINTAGE

Late spring rains and abundant sunshine spurred significant vine growth—meaning big canopies, big clusters and big berries. The vines soaked up the Calistoga warmth through August and as expected, yields were high as harvest began. Patience is even more important in years such as 2019 since flavor, color and texture tend to take longer to develop. Consequently, the level of precision in deciding what to harvest and when to do so drives quality and wine potential even more than normal. Accordingly, harvest proceeded in fits and starts chasing balance, finesse and concentration in the vineyard through September and into October.

Decanter

"Bright red-toned fruits and dried wild herb notes are tethered to rich cedar spices. Well-endowed with impressive depth and concentration, particularly evident in the mid-palate which is weighted by crushed stones and earthen minerality. Elongated tannins are crisp while acids are firm and tangy. Those capable of looking past its upfront approachability will be rewarded with patience as this wine will evolve and shine over the next four decades." -J.C 9/22

99

96

Wine Advocate

96

Vinous