

2019 STAR LANE MERLOT

STAR LANE VINEYARD, HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA



ALCOHOL
14.1%

AGED
20 months

OAK
35% New French

HARVESTED
October 2019

BOTTLED
June 2022

CELLAR LIFE
15 years

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VINTAGE

The second wet winter in the last 3 years was welcome news for Star Lane Vineyard. There has been much work invested in soil health over the last several years, including a continued ramp-up in sustainable vineyard management and farming which has led to Star Lane Vineyard being designated as a Certified California Sustainable vineyard. Indeed, the rains certainly contributed to vine health as well in 2019 and created a synergy with the farming practices. The growing season was the coolest in the last 4 years and created opportunity to produce absolutely classic, vibrant wines from Star Lane Vineyard. We are thrilled with this vintage!

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WINEMAKER NOTES

Merlot tends to ripen earlier than Cabernet Sauvignon both here at Star Lane Vineyard and in all of the great Bordelaise vineyards of the world. The Merlot at Star Lane Vineyard is planted on two different Clay soil types both of which drain well and allow us to control plant vigor. Due to the cooler growing season, we opted to use more Cabernet Sauvignon (18%) this year, pushing to almost a fifth of the blend and making this wine akin to what we'd expect from the great Merlot blends from Bolgheri. The balance of the wine was rounded out with tiny amounts of Petite Verdot and Cabernet Franc, both making up just 1% of the blend so that the Merlot remained 80%. Per usual, we minimized the new oak and allowed the vineyard to speak.

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TASTING NOTES

The 2019 Star Lane Vineyard Merlot has significant structure that will reward patience. The increase in Cabernet Sauvignon within this year's blend truly adds to the structure of the wine and helps accentuate the rich flavors and textures of Merlot, which tend to show more of the plum and raspberry aromas and flavors in 2019 than we've seen in previous vintages. The darker berry aromas and flavors are definitely from the Cabernet Sauvignon in this year's blend and demonstrate the perfect contrast to the more generous fruit of the Merlot. It's perhaps not coincidental that the 2019 Star Lane Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is nearly the mirror image of this wine, it's simply that we let the softer and rounder Merlot take center stage here.

