

ROMBAUER VINEYARDS

(NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA)

www.rombauer.com



Rombauer Vineyards was founded in 1980 by Koerner and Joan Rombauer and sits on a tree covered knoll overlooking the Napa Valley. The winery features caves that extend for over a mile into the hillside. The caves provide a constant temperature and humidity which result in optimum conditions for aging our wines.

The joy of wine is something that's important to Rombauer. Whether you are a collector of fine wines or like to have wine with food, wine is something that truly should be enjoyed. Rombauer Vineyards puts a lot of hard work and tender care into making drinkable wines. And because wine is a simple product to enjoy, emphasis is given to taking the mystique out of enjoying fine wines.

Our emphasis on the joy of wine comes from the heritage of the Rombauer family. Koerner's ancestors made wine in the famous Reingau region in Germany and his great aunt, Irma Rombauer, wrote the book *The Joy of Cooking*. Hence our focus on wine as complements to good food and good friends. Every family member is actively involved in the day-to-day operation of the winery from selecting grapes for the winemaking process and getting the wine to market.

Napa Valley Merlot (Carneros) 2019

CSPC# 874528

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	<i>84% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot</i>
Winemaker	Richie Allen
General Info	Since producing our first vintage of Merlot in 1983, we've been committed to making the best possible expression of the variety. Understanding that site selection and farming are key to exceptional Merlot, in 2014 we shifted our focus for sourcing to the Napa side of Carneros, which we believe produces consistently high-quality wines from this noble grape.
Vintage	Heavy rains in March and April replenished reservoirs and led to healthy vine growth which we managed through leafing and cluster thinning. Weather during the summer and fall was moderate. Sustainable farming practices throughout the growing season were tailored to each block with the assistance of aerial photos produced using NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) technology. The fruit was handpicked at dawn and sorted in the vineyard.
Harvest	Oct. 2–28th, 2019
Vineyards	Our Merlot is grown in estate-owned and grower-partner vineyards on the Napa side of Carneros, where the clay soils are similar to those of Bordeaux's right bank. The cool climate allows the thin-skinned grapes to gradually develop flavor and tannins while retaining natural acidity.
Winemaking	The grapes were carefully destemmed and optically sorted to ensure only perfect fruit made it into the wine. A cold soak extracted color and flavor before a combination of tank and barrel fermentation was used to provide a richer, more textured palate. The wine was gently basket-pressed before being racked to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and aging. 15 months in French oak (40% new)
Tasting Notes	Ripe black plum, black tea and mint aromas mingle in the glass with subtle scents of spice, freshly baked pie crust, and vanilla. This wine's lively palate jumps with cherry and plum flavors with a touch of mint and hint of spice, all giving way to notes of dark chocolate and vanilla. Its signature palate is framed by very fine, yet soft tannins and a refreshing length, enhanced by its acidity.
Serve with	Our favorite Joy of Cooking® pairings for this wine include Braised Short Ribs, Lasagna Bolognese, and Pan Roasted Rack of Lamb.

