

# BARNETT VINEYARDS

*Spring Mountain District*

NAPA VALLEY



## Merlot

Spring Mountain District  
2022

<b>Harvest Date:</b>	September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Grape Source:</b>	Spring Mountain District
<b>Blend:</b>	97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
<b>Aging:</b>	22 months in French Oak Barrels 65% new and 35% a range of 2-4-year-old
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.6%
<b>Total Production:</b>	34 Barrels
<b>Release Date:</b>	January 2025
<b>Winemaker:</b>	David Tate

**Vintage Notes:** The 2022 growing season started very early. Budbreak, flowering and harvest were all the earliest on record. Fortunately growing on top of a mountain moderates the heat. We were able to hang the merlot to a perfect level of maturity. The use of some of our mountain Cabernet Franc was to help provide a backbone to the softness of the Merlot. This wine has become a consumer favorite for its amazing concentration and power while still being true to the name Merlot.

**Winemaker Notes:** This Merlot comes from higher elevations on Spring Mountain. It is picked in the dark hours of the morning to ensure it arrives cool and undamaged. The Merlot spent 22 days on its skins to extract the soft tannins and flavor completely. Every year we look to see if a small percentage of any other varietal helps to fill in any gaps that the wine may have. This year just a splash (3%) of Cabernet Franc was used to add some backbone and spice.

**Tasting Notes:** You can smell the 2022 Spring Mountain Merlot upon popping the cork. Ripe black plum, vanilla bean and anise jump out of the glass. Beautiful cola spice is intermingled with dark roast coffee aromatics. True to all our years of Merlot, the palate is soft and silky while still having amazing viscosity. The tannins are much softer this year but propped up by the small amount of Cabernet Franc used. There is a long lingering black pepper cola finish. This wine is accessible in its youth but will age nicely over the next 7-8 years (2031-2032).