

PALOMA  
  
 MERLOT

The 2019 is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. It is fermented and then aged in French oak—33% new—for 18 months before being bottled in the spring and aged for an additional 30 months before release.

A dense ruby-purple in color, the 2019 Merlot reveals notes of strawberry jam intermixed with black cherries, oak, herbs, and a touch of chocolate. This is a medium-bodied offering that shows moderately tight tannins and a touch of sweetness up front. The wine will benefit from aeration and will pair beautifully with stuffed mushrooms and roasted pork loin.

<b>AVA</b>	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	<b>Vintage</b>	2019
<b>Blend</b>	85% Merlot / 15% Cabernet Sauvignon	<b>Alcohol</b>	14.8%
<b>Cooperage</b>	33% new French oak (Nadalié)	<b>Production</b>	1792 cases
<b>Bottled</b>	May 2021	<b>Initial Retail</b>	\$72
<b>Released</b>	August 2023	<b>Current Retail</b>	\$72



Kevin M. Vogt  
 Master Sommelier

*The Paloma Spring Mountain Merlot 2019 begins with a fragrant nose of boysenberry jam, black plums, anise, French lavender, violets, and sweet vanilla. The palate continues with blackberry compote, concentrated black currants, Kalamata olives, baker's chocolate, and licorice. This is a very dense, compact wine with amazingly concentrated, complex fruit interwoven with firm tannins that will allow it to age for well over a decade. As great as this wine is now, it will only improve over the next several years. I've enjoyed this wine over the decades, and this is the best vintage I can ever remember tasting." 95 Points*

In 2003, Paloma Vineyard's 2001 Merlot was chosen by the Wine Spectator as the Wine of the Year out of over 15,000 wines from around the world. Since 2003, Paloma Merlot has been in the Wine Spectator TOP 100 two more times—in 2004 for the 2002 vintage (54<sup>th</sup>) and in 2009 for the 2006 vintage (65<sup>th</sup>)—as well as received the Wine Spectator Special Selection in 2012 for the 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon. Paloma Vineyard uses only estate fruit that is picked, fermented, and barreled in small lots. Any blending is completed just prior to bottling, allowing for maximum development before deciding on final ratios.