



The **2018 Paloma Ode to Barbara** is the perfect homage to Barbara Richards. The backbone of 44% Cabernet in the final blend reminds on of Barbara’s strength, work ethic, and dedication to the vineyard, while the 54% Merlot reminds us of the soft-spoken woman who politely welcomed visitors into her home to taste wines on the deck with a swarm of hummingbirds dancing in the background. The wine opens with an exotic nose of blueberries, anise, ripe plum, and eucalyptus. On the palette, this is a full-bodied offering that entices with flavors of Bing cherries, black licorice, black pepper, and a hint of cumin. Very approachable on release and easy to consume, the taster’s patience will be rewarded by revisiting the wine multiple times over several hours—engaging in the friendly tug-of-war between the Merlot and Cabernet components. It’s only appropriate, as Barbara was never one to back down during a spirited debate. Brava, Barbara Richards.

The 2018 Ode to Barbara is 54% Merlot, 44% Cabernet & 2% Cabernet Franc. It is fermented and then aged in French oak—33% new—for 18 months before being bottled in the spring and bottle-aged for an additional 30 months.

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2018
Blend	54% Merlot / 44% CS / 2% CF	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% new French oak (Nadalié)	Production	138 cases
Bottled	May 2020	Initial Retail	\$84
Released	Aug 2022	Current Retail	\$89

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 (54th) and in 2009 for the 2006 vintage (65th)—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.