

BARNETT VINEYARDS

Spring Mountain District

NAPA VALLEY



Merlot

Spring Mountain District
2023

Harvest Date:	October 24 th and 25 th .
Grape Source:	100% Spring Mountain District, Estate Fruit
Blend:	97% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot
Aging:	22 months in French Oak Barrels, 65% new Of the new oak used we performed a 24 barrel forest experiment.
Alcohol:	14.6%
Total Production:	40 Barrels
Release Date:	January 2026
Winemaker:	David Tate

Vintage Notes: Where 2022 was the warmest growing year in Barnetts over 40-year history, 2023 was the coldest picking a full month later. The beginning of the 2023 growing season started with prayers being answered, it rained a lot. Enough to end a four-year drought. The first half of the year was uncommonly cool for our area and although it was relatively warm in August and September it still ended up being the latest that we ever finished bringing in fruit in Barnetts 40-year history. The use of a few drops of Petit Verdot gave this Merlot firmer tannins and minerality to the nose. 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. Due to the cool temperatures the skins were thicker, so the wine only spent 14 days on its' skins to limit extraction. However, after fermentation we felt the wine could use a little boost and added just one barrel of Petit Verdot to the 40-barrel blend.

Tasting Notes: Dark purple and opaque, this is one of the darkest Merlots we have made. Plum and caramel jump out of the glass matched by a myriad of spices from the 24-barrel oak experiment. There are also aromatics of vanilla and crushed violets. Round and lush the palate has flavors of dark cherries and cream coffee. The tannins are full and chalky due to the cool year. Great acidity balances out the beautiful tannins and the finish is filled with plum and cocoa. This wine will age wonderfully over the next 9-10 years (2034-2035).