

2021 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

TITUS



SILVERADO TRAIL
50 YEARS IN NAPA VALLEY

- ESTABLISHED 1969 -

Titus Vineyards is a family owned 50-acre vineyard and winery located at the base of Howell Mountain along the Silverado Trail in the heart of the St. Helena AVA, Napa Valley. In the past 50 years, some of the valleys finest wines including Charles Krug, Beaulieu Vineyards and Cuvaison have originated from our historic vineyards. The modern-day legacy of winemaking and land stewardship is reflected in the distinctive character, well balanced wines made here.

VINEYARDS

- Our home vineyard is located on 40 acres of Napa Valley floor just north of St. Helena on the Silverado Trail. It has well-drained, sandy, alluvial soils and is characterized by its ability to produce complex wines with well-defined fruit flavors, gentle acids, and naturally balanced tannins.
- Our Ehlers Lane vineyard lies to the north of the winery estate, on the northern boundary of the St. Helena AVA. The volcanic slope and rocky stream bed soils yields small Cabernet Sauvignon berries and concentrated fruit.
- Multiple vineyard passes resulted in small lot harvesting that optimizes the timing and selection for ideal fruit maturity.

VINTAGE

- Late season rains and cool temperatures meant for a slightly later Spring with bud break occurring in the third week of March. Even weather throughout the Spring allowed the soils to dry out and flowering to occur unabated with balanced berry set happening across all varieties.
- June and July provided ideal weather to help the vines catch up a bit and proceed into veraison in early August. The heat of late Summer allowed the vineyards to develop deep flavors with rich color in the red varieties.
- The mid-October harvest dates for the Merlot allowed the fruit to be expressive, concentrated and retain its natural acidity, yet softened tannins ideally for building a bold yet integrated wine.

WINEMAKING

The 2021 Titus Merlot was harvested on October 11th, 2021. The Merlot is 100% from two blocks at the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard in Southern Napa. After the fruit was received at the winery it was destemmed directly to tank where it was fermented for 14 days. After fermentation the free run wine was drained from tank and racked to barrel. This wine was aged in 55% new Hungarian Oak barrels for 20 months before being racked to tank for bottling. This wine was racked quarterly during the first year.

Vineyard Manager: Eric Titus
Winemaker: Stephen Cruzan
Appellation: Napa Valley
Harvest Date: Oct. 2021
Bottled: May 2023

Blend: 80% Merlot
7% Malbec
7% Cabernet Sauvignon
6% Cabernet Franc
Cases Produced: 325

Barrel Aging: 20 months in 55% New
Hungarian Oak
Alcohol: 14.8%
Acidity: 6.6 g/L
pH: 3.72

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Titus Merlot is a wonderful expression of this classic variety. Notes of red fruit, pomegranate, cherry with graphite and oolong tea jump out of the glass on the first swirls. The wine is mouth filling and smooth, with medium bodied texture, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity that keep the wine fresh throughout. Dark cherry, nutmeg, clove, and cracked pepper lead the way with well-integrated oak and soft herbs rounding out the palate into a finish that is supple and lingering. Enjoy through 2034.