



CASTORO CELLARS

ESTATE MERLOT 2020

This Merlot is sourced from our Estate certified organic vineyards that are nestled in the Templeton Gap and Paso Robles Estrella District of the Paso Robles AVA. Merlot is one of the main Bordeaux varieties and grows well in Paso Robles. This is a great alternative to Cabernet Sauvignon when you are looking for something slightly softer with more elegance. The fruit has dark berry and cola nuances, the vanilla oak is moderate, and the tannins are soft but offers a full body mouthfeel.

- NIELS & BIMMER UDSEN, Founders

HARVEST NOTES:

2020 – that might be enough said! Everything about this year has been unforeseeable. Luckily the grapes were somewhat immune. Spring was on time with very little threat or damage from frost followed by a long and moderate growing season. We did get a hot spell that reduced the grapes on the vine and some areas struggled. Worse were the fires that caused smoke to hang in the air for days. We were extremely worried about a potentially memorable vintage ruined by smoke taint. We tested everything and are confident we dodged a bullet. Whew! Look forward to full bodied reds and aromatic whites.

WINEMAKER NOTES:

The 2020 Castoro Cellars Merlot utilizes all organic estate grapes from the Templeton Gap and Estrella sub AVAs; Merlot does well with a standard length of fermentation and does not become overly tannic. With the 2020, I found the complexity and structure was heightened with the addition of some nice Tannat and Petite Sirah. In addition, those two varieties will increase the reward of bottle aging.

- TOM MYERS, Winemaker

TASTING NOTES:

APPEARANCE: Ruby-garnet

AROMA: Plum, cherry-cola, vanilla, earth and oak

PALATE: Medium to full body, dark fruits and oak with soft tannins

TECHNICAL NOTES:

VARIETAL: 82% Merlot, 9% Petite Sirah, 9% Tannat

VINEYARD SOURCES: Jack Knife, Cobble Creek, Blind Faith, Jack Creek

AVA: Paso Robles **HARVEST DATE:** First Half October 2020

BOTTLING DATE: September 21, 2021 **HARVEST SUGAR:** 24.2° brix

OAK: French and American **OAK AGE:** 9 months **ALCOHOL:** 13.9%

TA: 0.59 g. 100ml **pH:** 3.68

