

PETER PAUL

WINES

2018 Master's Blend Napa Valley Red Wine

After the heat-spiked 2017 vintage, 2018 was like a calm stroll through the Muir Woods; effortless with consistent, moderate weather for what turned out to be the longest harvest in years. In fact, I remember how almost *no* vintners came to my taco truck party in late October because they were still picking fruit! The good news: both phenolic maturity and sugar-levels in Napa Valley arrived in pristine balance. Thankfully, all *our* harvest picks were finished before the rains of early October. The resulting wines have a sexy density and a righteous phenolic frame without tasting overripe, while being blessed with a persistent freshness across the board.

About the Master's Blend

Produced in the spirit of the Bordeaux blending tradition, the Master's Blend was crafted by our GM, Winemaker and Master of Wine, Martin Reyes, as a unique expression of the balanced depth of Napa Valley reds. Sourced from a combination of Rutherford, (red-fruit purity), St. Helena (sinewy muscularity), and Calistoga (sensuous texture), this red blend inhabits the space where power – the heavy concentration that Napa is known for—makes room for a calmer, graceful strength. In the winery, the wine experienced minimal racking with 26-month aging in 75% new French Oak, and was bottled, unfiltered and unfiltered on Dec 2020. A patient bottle-aged release allowed the components to fully integrate.

2018 development: *Last year, we transitioned to lighter glass bottles; this year we forwent the fancy, Spanish-imported tin capsules and reduced our carbon footprint by finishing the bottle necks with wax sealing. To open, simply pretend the cork is naked and go straight through. No need to remove wax.*

Tasting Notes

Building upon the glorious results of the 2018 baseline Napa Valley Cabernet quality, the Master's Blend finds new dimensions of complexity and expressiveness by blending the edgy allure of Cabernet Franc, and the compelling seasoning of Petit Verdot. With cedar and tobacco leaf, an olive savor offsetting black and red fruits balanced by notes of leather and black cherry, this wine delivers intensity and extract without having to raise its voice. A deeply rewarding wine that captures Peter Paul's core philosophy of balanced winemaking while paying homage to the artistry of Bordeaux's blending tradition. Cellarworthy for 10-15 years.

Technical Data

- Varieties: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot & Merlot
- Sub-appellations: Rutherford, St. Helena, Calistoga
- Maturation: 100% French Oak; 75% new 26 months
- Cases Produced: 186 cases, 5 magnum cases, 2 Jeroboams 1 Methuselah
- 95pt in Wine & Spirits