

Decoy Limited Alexander Valley Merlot

COUNTRY

United States

REGION

California

GRAPE

86% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Syrah, 2% Malbec

VINTAGE

2021

ABOUT THE DOMAINE

Established in 1985, Decoy is recognized for its commitment to producing attractively priced wines from exceptional vineyard sources, including Decoy's own Ridgeline and Brownell Estate vineyards in the Alexander Valley. Over the years, the Decoy lineup has grown to include a Sonoma County appellation designated Red Blend, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, as well as a California Rosé. The winemaking program at Decoy is guided by Winemaker Dana Epperson, who has established expertise working with multiple grape varieties throughout her career.

WINEMAKING

The season began with a warm winter with less than 50% of the average rainfall, leading to early drought precautions, including suckering, careful cover crop management, targeted irrigation and pruning for crop load. Budbreak occurred mid-March to early-April with bloom in mid-May. Summer temperatures fluctuated from 85° F to 105° F, which ensured excellent ripening. Red grapes were also surprisingly concentrated at lower sugar levels, while still displaying wonderful depth, complexity and juicy flavours. This wine has been aged in French oak barrels for 14 months (40% new, 60% neutral).

TASTING NOTES

This vibrant and alluring Merlot draws you in with fragrances of ripe raspberry, Bing cherry and red currant, as well as notions of cedar and sweet baking spice from oak aging. On the palate, velvety tannins accentuate the generous red berry and spice flavours as they flow to a long, juicy finish.



TECHNICAL NOTES

Alcohol by volume

13.9%

Acidity

0.57 g/100ml

pH

3.62