

DUCKHORN[®]

V I N E Y A R D S

2023 NAPA VALLEY MERLOT RECTOR CREEK VINEYARD

Established in 1976 by renowned vintners Margaret and Dan Duckhorn, Duckhorn Vineyards is an iconic Napa Valley winery deeply rooted in a rich legacy of tradition. With its cooling afternoon breeze combined with rocky alluvial soils, this estate Rector Creek Vineyard Merlot is a testament to the artistry and dedication that defines each vintage of our storied history.

VINTAGE NOTES

In 2023, heavy winter and spring rains delayed budbreak and set the stage for one of the latest vintages in decades. Cooler spring temperatures led to an extended flowering period with our team applying post-veraison thinning to achieve a balanced crop. As the season progressed, temperatures remained below average, which provided additional hangtime but required extra patience. Our patience paid off, with 2023 offering one of our most unique and rewarding vintages to date! Semillon harvest began on August 28th with Sauvignon Blanc soon following. With no significant heat events, the grapes were able to ripen beautifully. Harvest concluded on November 9th with Cabernet Sauvignon from Oak Knoll and Howell Mountain. Our 2023 whites are crisp, with ideal flavor development and bright acids, and the reds are pure, supple and balanced, with vibrant acidity, fresh flavors, and intense colors.

WINEMAKING NOTES

This Merlot captures the generous red and blue fruit qualities for which our estate Rector Creek Vineyard is known. Aromas of red plum, raspberry and dark chocolate covered cherries are complemented by hints of blueberry and bright orange zest. Round and full on the palate, flavors of graham cracker, red currant and candied violets unfold alongside bold, supple tannins and a lively finish.

WINEMAKING

APPELLATION	Napa Valley
VINEYARD	Rector Creek Vineyard
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	100% estate fruit 98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon
FERMENTATION & AGING	Aged 18 months in 100% French oak 75% new, 25% neutral
ALCOHOL	14.5%
pH	3.71
ACIDITY	0.53 g/100 ml



THE DUCKHORN PORTFOLIO



Duckhorn.com | 1000 Lodi Lane St. Helena, CA 94574 | (707) 963-7108