

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2022 MERLOT

Merlot entered our Brown Estate wine lineup as a one-off for the 2018 vintage when we had surplus fruit on hand from our 2018 Chaos Theory production for which it originally was sourced. For 2019, Chaos Theory left no Merlot behind... and thereafter we entered the maelstrom production cycle of 2020 which ultimately led to a Lot 2 bottling of 2019 Chaos Theory (different varietals, no Merlot) + a commemorative bottling of 2020 Chaos Theory (also no Merlot) as homage to our resilience in the face of tremendous challenges during that most chaotic year. Merlot resurfaced for 2021 from a new grower, once again sourced for Chaos Theory — however when we began tasting it from barrel, this Merlot demanded a standalone bottling, to which it was dedicated entirely. The present 2022 vintage, our first consecutive bottling, establishes Merlot as a now regular entry in our Brown Estate lineup. This is vintage no. 3.

Technical

Composition: 100% Merlot

Vineyard source: Madrigal Vineyards

Appellation: Napa Valley

Barrel aging: 8 months in 30% new French oak

ABV: 14.8%

pH: 3.76

TA: 7.1 g/L

Production: 680 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Sensory

Eye: Deep, concentrated, clear garnet core, soft ruby rim.

Nose: Citrusy herbal (think fresh orange zest) and subtle woody notes, warm blackberry and allspice, hints of creamy vanilla.

Palate: Full-bodied, smooth and balanced texture, medium-fine tannins. Structured yet plush with dense ripe fruit. Vibrant acidity is well-integrated for persistent a mouthfeel trailed by a lingering creamy vanilla finish.

Cellar life: Drink now through 2036.