

PARADISE SPRINGS WINERY

MERLOT

2021

TECHNICAL DATA

pH: 3.74

Acid: 7.0 g/l

Alcohol: 12.7%

GRAPE SOURCES

100% Merlot sourced entirely from Williams Gap Vineyards

APPELLATIONS

Loudoun County

HARVEST DATES

October 5, 2021

WINEMAKING DATA

Grapes were harvested and refrigerated on site at 40 F overnight. The next they were destemmed into fermentation bins and were immediately heated in a hot room to allow us to inoculate the must with yeast. Fermentation lasted 12 days as gentle punch downs were done twice a day. Next the wine was pressed off into tank and allowed to settle for two days until it was moved into barrels. The wine went through malolactic fermentation while aging for 10 months in both new and neutral barrels of French oak. The following cooperages were used: Ermitage and Berger cooperages. The 2021 Merlot was bottled on August 16, 2022.

WINEMAKER NOTES

This Merlot starts with red fruit aromas that lead to flavors of cherry and plum, finishing with a touch of white pepper. The medium body of this wine, smooth tannins, and bright acidity will help it pair well with a variety of foods.

VINTAGE NOTES

It was a slow start to the growing season after a very mild winter. That helped prevent a major frost event mainly around the Charlottesville area so we were able to avoid issues at our sites. Towards the end of winter an unsettling weather pattern of warm and cool spells was trending. As the season moved to the warmer months our vineyards remained relatively dry, which stalled veraison and elongated maturity of the clusters. It remained dry through the early ripening of sparkling grapes, but occasional rainfalls and high humidity left us battling some mildew breakouts and slowed ripening at most vineyards for the rest of harvest. The other pest that was battled was the 17-year brood of cicada which likes to feed on and girdle some of the grapevine shoots. Thankfully this pest comes and goes quickly. Overall, a good vintage comparatively for Virginia probably more in the craft of the old-world style as opposed to the 201 vintage leaning newer world in style.

