## Paris Valley Road 2020 Merlot



## APPELLATION: Central Coast, California

WINEMAKING: Our 2020 Merlot is sourced from the most premium blocks of our Chalk Knoll Vineyard in the San Lucas AVA, where sloping hillsides offer healthy soils and canopies to support optimal grape growth. Our rigorous sorting process ensures only the cleanest, highest quality fruit enters our tanks, and a state-of-the-art pump-over system extracts maximum color and flavor while gently progressing the fruit through fermentation. We blended in 5% Cabernet Sauvignon to help build the backbone of this once overlooked varietal, then aged the wine for 18 months in 25% new French and American oak.

**TASTING NOTES:** The aroma is dark in tone, which is different for Merlot and why we love it so much. Our fruit makes for a deep bouquet of plums, rhubarb pie, and dark chocolate. The palate is soft but full of black cherry and fresh raspberry flavors. The subtle oak profile gives the wine tons of character without a heavy tannin structure, and notes of tobacco leaf and toasted marshmallow round out a smooth finish.

## **TECHNICAL NOTES:**

| pH                      | 3.64         |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Malolactic Fermentation | 100%         |
| Residual Sugar          | .046 g/100mL |
| Total Acidity           | .64 g/100mL  |
| Alcohol                 | 14.5%        |

COMPOSITION: 95% Merlot; 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

BOTTLING DATE: June 17, 2022

SUGGESTED AGING: Enjoy now or cellar through 2025



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