

MERLOT / DAKINE VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY TWENTY 23

WINE STORY

DaKine Vineyard is our Estate Merlot block. It is nestled at the bottom of an east-facing hill on Westside Road in Healdsburg. Original vines were planted in 1988 for Arrowwood Winery with budwood obtained from the famous "Three Palms" Merlot vineyard in Napa Valley. In addition, $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of Malbec (clone 1) was established in the middle of the site. In 2005, Oded bought the property from the Mondavi family and began farming the grapes. Oded named the vineyard "DaKine" (pronounced Dah-kain), a Hawaiian-Creole English expression that could mean anything and can be used to describe anything, even complex concepts such as terroir.

WINEMAKING

Merlot is a Bordeaux variety with a long tradition as a wine blended into Cabernet Sauvignon of the Left Bank of the Gironde River but one that also produces the iconic wines of the "Right Bank". Our estate vineyard makes a wine that is balanced, naturally. It is a field-blend, meaning we grow, harvest and co-ferment the Merlot and Malbec together. We believe that the combination of 38 year-old vines and a micro-climate that is cooler than the surrounding valleys but warm enough to ripen the grapes every year work together to create a complex wine with a sense of place. The 2023 growing season was long, we harvested grapes in Mid October when tannins were mature and flavors well developed. Our Merlot ages in 100% French Oak barrels, mostly 1 year old and is always bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

ENJOYMENT

DaKine Merlot is lush with black currant, violet and plum aromas with that signature note of dried herbs. The generous mid-palate is full of sweet-tasting tannins, and dark chocolate flavors. As always, this is our favorite wine to pair with a rare Filet Mignon or a beef carpaccio.

DETAILS

Varietal: 91% Merlot, 9% Malbec	pH: 3.79
Vineyard: Estate - DaKine Vineyard	TA: 6.5g/L
AVA: Russian River Valley, Sonoma County	Alcohol: 14.5%

