

THE BRANDER VINEYARD

LOS OLIVOS, CALIFORNIA

2023 ESTATE MERLOT

LOS OLIVOS DISTRICT

The 2023 Estate Merlot reflects the long, cool growing season with a lighter, more lifted expression than is typically associated with the variety. Fresh strawberry, cherry and red plum lead the wine, supported by a juicy mid-palate, fine tannins and a delicate savory edge. Approachable and polished, this is a bright, red-fruited Merlot built around freshness rather than weight.

424

CASES PRODUCED

92%

MERLOT

19 MONTHS

FRENCH OAK

COMPOSITION

92% Merlot | 8% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARD SOURCES

83% Brander Vineyard Estate - Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon

17% Mesa Verde Vineyard - Merlot

HARVEST AND CHEMISTRY

October 23 - Brander Merlot: 24.5 Brix, pH 3.61

October 27 - Mesa Verde Merlot: 23.6 Brix, pH 3.48

November 4 - Brander Cabernet Sauvignon: 24.7 Brix, pH 3.51

TASTING PROFILE

Fresh strawberry, red cherry, raspberry and red plum define the aromatic profile. The palate is light to medium-bodied, juicy and finely textured, with soft tannins, gentle freshness and a subtle savory note. The finish is smooth, red-fruited and easygoing, making this a versatile and approachable expression of Merlot.

WINEMAKING

Organic practices were used in the vineyard (not certified). All grapes were hand harvested, destemmed and lightly crushed before fermentation in 1.5-ton bins. The wine aged for approximately 19 months in French oak barrels, with only 8% new oak, allowing the bright fruit and delicate structure of the vintage to remain at the forefront.