



The Paloma Story

Founded by Jim and Barbara Richards and carried forward by their son Sheldon, Paloma Vineyard remains a true family operation. Today, Sheldon crafts the wines while his son Caston—the third generation at Paloma—serves as general manager and continues to learn the winemaking craft.

Our approach is hands-on and intentional: estate fruit is picked in small lots, fermented with daily hand punch-downs, and aged in a thoughtful balance of one third new and two thirds neutral French oak. The result is wines known for their smooth, velvety texture and layered complexity, vintage after vintage.

Paloma's 2,000-foot Spring Mountain estate defines its wines. Rocky volcanic soils, cool mountain breezes, and gentler temperatures than the valley floor—cooler days and warmer evenings—yield concentrated berries with vibrant aromatics, natural structure, and age-worthy elegance that clearly express a sense of place.

In 2003, Paloma Vineyard's 2001 Merlot was named ***Wine of the Year*** by Wine Spectator, chosen from more than 15,000 wines worldwide. Since then, Paloma Merlot has also appeared twice more in the Wine Spectator Top 100—2004 for the 2002 vintage (#54) and 2009 for the 2006 vintage (#65)—and in 2012 our 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon earned the magazine's Special Selection.



2013 Merlot

Jumping into the glass, it's full of raspberry, red plum, and vanilla bean. Breathing deeper into the aromatic depths comes with dried red currant and fig jam notes. As the wine enters the mouth, its approach is silky, soft, and round. However, it does not fully express itself until the mid-palate where an acidic raspberry settles on the tongue before the swallow of fine peppery stinging tannins. The drinker is left with a lingering raspberry finish and a dry tongue, just salivating for another sip.

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2013
Blend	85% Merlot / 15% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% New French Oak (Nadalié)	Production	2881 Cases
Bottled	May 2015	Released	September 2017

Vintage Notes: The 2013 vintage is widely considered exceptional, marked by a near-perfect growing season with warm, dry conditions and a leisurely harvest. This resulted in grapes with intense flavors, balanced acidity, and ripe tannins, making it a highly sought-after vintage.

Aging Potential: Paloma wines have historically shown the ability to age gracefully for 20 to 30 years, though the exact arc depends on each vintage. The 2013 Merlot, with its balance of structure and fruit, is expected to reach peak expression at around 20 years.

Ratings & Reviews

Robert Parker, Wine Advocate, *93 points*

"This wine exhibits plenty of plum, black cherry and blackcurrant fruit, mocha and coffee bean in a lush, delicious and opulently textured style. It is drinking beautifully already and will continue to evolve for another decade or more."

Don Gillette, Napa Valley Wine Exchange

"With its amazing aromatic depth and chiseled focus, this bottling joins 2001, 2007 and 2012 in the pantheon of truly great Paloma Merlots. The nose is a dense perfume of mulberry, blackberry, black



currant, blueberry, Asian plum sauce, bitter chocolate-covered dark cherry, espresso bean, licorice root, black truffle, humidor-spice, graphite, charcoal, mace, and lavender scents. Each of these elements is expressed on the mid-palate, counter-pointing firm “Cabernet-like” tannins and classic mountain structure to create a lean yet almost sinewy mouthfeel. The finish is a tightly wound, but lingering cascade of dark berry, black fig, black licorice, tobacco, charcoal, graphite, truffle, star anise, cedar, sandalwood and foresty-spice, with gentler suggestions of lavender and toasted Marcona almond. At five to twelve years from its full maturity, it is a fascinating beauty already.”