



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.



2017 Merlot

The 2017 Paloma Merlot fills the glass with luscious aromas of dark, ripe plum, blackberry, and hints of thyme. On the palate, the wine presents a rich, hearty mouthfeel, with consistent notes of ripe, black fruits and a pleasingly, lingering finish. Showing beautifully in its youth, this offering will evolve seamlessly, offering years of enjoyment. While an ideal candidate for pairing with a broad range of rich foods, the 2017 Merlot is a meal in itself.

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2017
Blend	85% Merlot / 15% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% New French Oak (Nadalié)	Production	1842 Cases
Bottled	May 2019	Released	August 2021

Vintage Notes: 2017 was a wet winter and spring, followed by a hot, dry summer with a heat spike in early September that brought fruit in quickly, resulting in a challenging, but rewarding 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 2017 Merlot, with its balance of structure and fruit, is expected to reach peak expression at around 20 years.