



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.



2018 Merlot

The 2018 Paloma Merlot is luscious. In the glass, the color exhibits deep garnet tones. On the nose you're greeted with notes of violet, dark fruit, black licorice, and pepper. On the palate, you'll note signs of hearty ripe plums, black olives, anise, and a finish of rich, dark chocolate. This would pair beautifully with grilled steak, portobello mushrooms, strong-flavored cheese!

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2018
Blend	86% Merlot / 14% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% New French Oak (Nadalié)	Production	2302 Cases
Bottled	May 2020	Released	August 2022

Vintage Notes: 2018 was an excellent growing season with balanced fruit development and a slow, measured harvest. The season was characterized by mild temperatures, minimal heat spikes, and a longer-than-usual hang time, allowing for optimal flavor development.

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 2018 vintage is expected to peak between 15 and 20 years, offering both early approachability and long-term cellaring potential.