



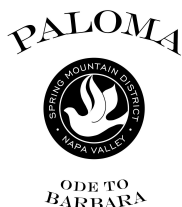
## The Paloma Story

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.



The **2018 Paloma Ode to Barbara** is the perfect homage to Barbara Richards. The backbone of 44% Cabernet in the final blend reminds on of Barbara's strength, work ethic, and dedication to the vineyard, while the 54% Merlot reminds us of the soft-spoken woman who politely welcomed visitors into her home to taste wines on the deck with a swarm of hummingbirds dancing in the background. The wine opens with an exotic nose of blueberries, anise, ripe plum, and eucalyptus. On the palette, this is a full-bodied offering that entices with flavors of Bing cherries, black licorice, black pepper, and a hint of cumin. Very approachable on release and easy to consume, the taster's patience will be rewarded by revisiting the wine multiple times over several hours—engaging in the friendly tug-of-war between the Merlot and Cabernet components. It's only appropriate, as Barbara was never one to back down during a spirited debate. Brava, Barbara Richards.

|                  |                                       |                   |           |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| <b>AVA</b>       | Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley | <b>Vintage</b>    | 2018      |
| <b>Blend</b>     | 54% Merlot / 44% CS / 2% CF           | <b>Alcohol</b>    | 14.8%     |
| <b>Cooperage</b> | 33% new French oak (Nadalié)          | <b>Production</b> | 138 cases |
| <b>Bottled</b>   | May 2020                              | <b>Released</b>   | Aug 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.