



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.



2019 Merlot

A dense ruby-purple in color, the 2019 Merlot reveals notes of strawberry jam intermixed with black cherries, oak, herbs, and a touch of chocolate. This is a medium-bodied offering that shows moderately tight tannins and a touch of sweetness up front. The wine will benefit from aeration and will pair beautifully with stuffed mushrooms and roasted pork loin.

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2019
Blend	85% Merlot / 15% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% New French Oak (Nadalié)	Production	1792 Cases
Bottled	May 2021	Released	August 2023

Vintage Notes: The season began cool and wet, followed by a warm, moderate summer with few heat spikes. This resulted in a long hang time, allowing for optimal fruit development and the production of beautiful, high-quality, balanced wines.

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 2019 Merlot, with its balance of structure and fruit, is expected to reach peak expression at around 20 years.

Ratings & Reviews

Wine Spectator, *92 Points*

”Supple and generous, yet handsomely structured, with detailed red currant and cherry flavors highlighted by toasty spices and savory anise as this builds tension toward polished tannins.” –

Kevin M. Vogt, Master Sommelier, Wine Country Connection, *95 Points*

“The Paloma Spring Mountain Merlot 2019 begins with a fragrant nose of boysenberry jam, black plums, anise, French lavender, violets, and sweet vanilla. The palate continues with blackberry compote, concentrated black currants, Kalamata olives, baker’s chocolate, and licorice. This is a very dense, compact wine with amazingly concentrated, complex fruit interwoven with firm tannins that will allow it



to age for well over a decade. As great as this wine is now, it will only improve over the next several years. I've enjoyed this wine over the decades, and this is the best vintage I can ever remember tasting."

Frank Melis, Golden Gate Wines, *96 points*

"Top 25 wines of 2024"