



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.



2021 Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2021 Paloma Cabernet Sauvignon opens with bright cranberry and savory herbs, layered with notes of paprika and red chili flakes. A soft floral lift appears at the edge of the bouquet. On the palate, the wine delivers on its aromatic promise, with a peppery zip and a full-bodied mouthfeel. Firm tannins offer structure and suggest excellent aging potential. Flavors move from cool and vibrant up front to a warm, spicy finish that lingers at the back of the palate.

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2021
Blend	100% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% New French Oak (Nadalié)	Production	343 Cases
Bottled	May 2023	Released	August 2025

Vintage Notes: Overall, 2021 was a strong vintage. A cooler spring led to a hot summer and fall. Fruit ripened smoothly with decent hang time and looked excellent coming in at harvest.

Winemaker's Notes: 2021 was a season we were grateful for. After losing the crop to smoke taint in 2020 to the Glass Fire, seeing the vines come back with such strength was a relief. The weather held steady—no wild swings, no extremes—and that steadiness makes all the difference. When a season gives you that kind of consistency, the vineyard really does most of the work. My job was just to stay out of the way and guide it along. The wines carry that story—generous, balanced, and a reminder of what a good year can give.

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 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, with its balance of structure and fruit, is expected to reach peak expression at around 20 years.

Ratings & Reviews

Wine Spectator, *93 points*

"There's a lovely, savory sparkle to this version, which relies on red currant and bitter plum fruit for its core, while sage, bay and wet conifer accents are sprinkled liberally throughout. The sleek finish shows a subtle twang of iron. A pretty Cabernet."



Wine Advocate, *93 points*

“Marked by hints of mint and pencil shavings, the nose also offers up attractive cherry and olive notes. It’s a full-bodied but streamlined wine—especially when compared to the more zaftig Merlot—but it’s still approachable, featuring ripe, silky-textured tannins and a long, softly dusty finish. Pricing is more than competitive, so readers should take note.