



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.



2022 Merlot

Bright strawberry cherry red color. On the nose we have fresh red plum, crushed blue raspberry, sweet violet, and a dry tickle of rose on the tailcoats of inhale. Tannins hit midpallet this medium-full bodied wine, carries notes of cinnamon and peppercorn when inhaled over the pallet. Flowed by a gentle lingering finish. This wine is very drinkable by itself and is a friendly companion to just about any meal.

Ratings & Reviews

"Silky in texture and gracefully multilayered, offering detailed flavors of black cherry and red currant that take on hints of mocha, vanilla and toasty spices that linger on the supple finish." – **Tim Fish, Wine Spectator, 94 points**

AVA	Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley	Vintage	2022
Blend	85% Merlot/15% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol	14.8%
Cooperage	33% New French Oak (Nadalié)	Production	593 Cases
Bottled	May	Released	August

Vintage Notes: 2022 was a hot growing season. With little to moderate winter rain the summer season took off in a heated hurry. Grapes were harvested early due to an extreme heat spike in the second week of September temperatures ranged across the valley from 100-110 degrees fahrenheit. This intense heat expedited ripening and resulted in a lower yield for Paloma.

Winemaker's Notes: Another interesting year! It was a hot year. We started watering earlier than usual, both to keep the vines comfortable and to minimize raisining. Our continuing project, spreading 100 tons of compost every fall throughout the vineyard along with nutrient amending cover crops, has provided the greenest and most vibrant farm I can remember. This helps to enrich the soils, allow water to penetrate the earth during the rainy season, and shade the soil in the hot summer months, ensuring the vines are healthy and happy. A very hot September moved crop maturity quickly. Harvest came fast and early. This resulted in a smaller than usual crop, but really great fruit. The wines in '22 are exceptional!

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 2022 vintage is expected to peak between 10 and 20 years, offering early approachability and long-term cellaring potential.