

B CELLARS  
[ NOTES FROM THE CELLAR ]

# *Hudson Vineyard Merlot*

Napa Valley

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2021

## *Vineyard Story*



This historic vineyard was one of the earliest vineyards planted in Carneros in the late 1830s. Tucked into the rolling hills of Carneros, north of the two-lane “Carneros Highway” connecting Sonoma and Napa, is a mosaic of vineyard blocks planted and fastidiously farmed by Lee Hudson.

## *Winemakers Notes*



The complex nose is expansive; enticing aromas of freshly roasted coffee, leather, clove, and delicate hints of lilac and lavender are followed by rich scents of dried blackberries and mulberries. The palate is dense, especially across the mid-palate. Intense flavors of black cherry, blueberry, and black currants are interwoven with notes of gravel and savory dried mushrooms. The tannins are chewy and lingering, balanced by lifting acidity on the finish.

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## *Vintage Notes*



The 2021 vintage will be remembered for low yields with intensely-flavored, small-sized berries and a smooth and uneventful harvest season. This years growing season can best be described as a cold start to a warm fast finish. The season started off with very little rain, leading to the 2nd year of drought conditions. Harvest began early with white wine grapes picked in August and some reds started being picked in September. The drought of 2021 resulted in a more natural load on the vines, requiring less pruning and dropping of fruit. The resulting grapes are packed full of flavor. The 2021 vintage will be marked with outstanding and intense flavor profiles.

## *Pairing Insights*



B Cellars Executive Chef Derick Kuntz loves pairing food with Merlot. He suggests pairing it with Herb Roasted Lamb Chops with a Huckleberry Gastrique. Serve with Roasted Marble Potatoes on the side to complete the dish. The herbs will bring out the earthiness in the wine while the gastrique amplifies the dark fruit profile.