



# FLANAGAN

2021 MERLOT

*Bennett Valley - Sonoma County*

HARVEST DATE October 11, 2021

pH 3.65

TA 6.02

ABV 14.8%

CASES PRODUCED 202

RELEASE DATE October 2023

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The spring of 2021 was extremely dry. There was very little rain in the winter of 2020-2021 and we moved back into serious drought conditions by early spring. The lack of soil moisture led to weaker shoot growth and poor fruit set. Inland vineyards were the most affected. Overall the crop in Sonoma County was about 15% below normal. Coming on the heels of the total disaster of 2020 (which had two major fires in the middle of the growing season) this left wineries scrambling to find fruit. The 2021 vintage is excellent but small.

The fruit quality in 2021 was excellent. The low yields and warm growing season produced a modest crop of ripe, concentrated fruit. Farming at the highest level, picking for balance, and making the wine with minimal intervention all contribute to what we believe is one of the top Merlots made in California.

## TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Flanagan Merlot Sonoma County has compelling aromatic notes of Cassis, Rose hips, and Cedar. The palate has primarily red fruits like Red Currant and Luxardo Cherries, with a hint of Sandalwood. The wine has a lush palate, nice acidity, and very fine tannins. This is a beautifully built, balanced wine that will age gracefully for many years to come.

