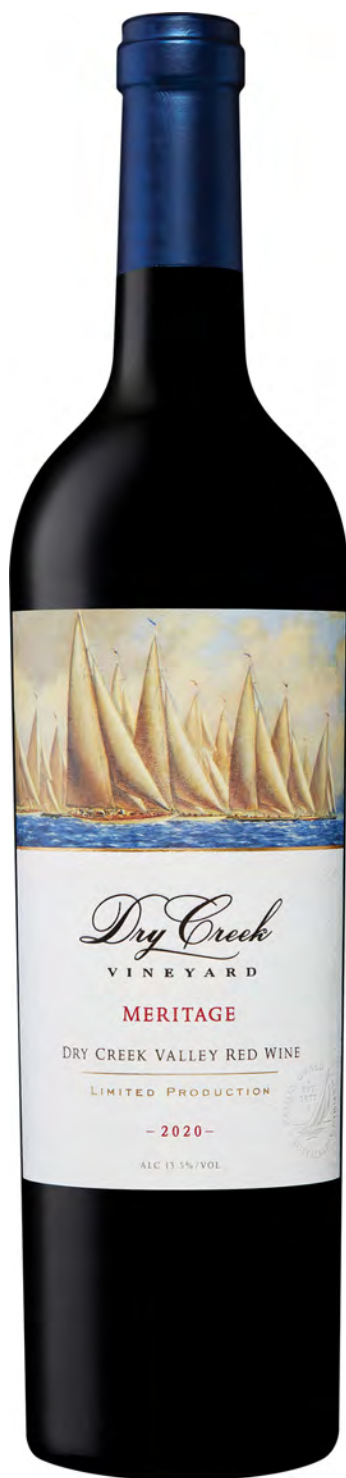




## 2020 MERITAGE

Dry Creek Valley



### HISTORY

Since our founding in 1972, we have advocated for the artful blending of the Bordeaux varieties to achieve balance, finesse and character in our red wines. Meritage is the name given to a Bordeaux-style blend, combining the “merit” of the grape with the “heritage” of the blending tradition. In 1985, winery founder David Stare was the first vintner in California to produce a wine with “Meritage” on the label.

### GROWING SEASON

The fall and winter rains of the 2020 season were slightly below average, but spring rains helped to increase the total rainfall. Heat waves in mid-August and the first week of September set off a fast-paced early stretch of harvest. Nature dealt some unexpected cards with the Walbridge Fire in August, in a remote forested area, and the Glass Fire in September, located on the eastern side of Sonoma County. Ever focused on quality, our winemaking team implemented an intensive plan for evaluating grapes prior to harvesting. After detailed analysis of each block within each vineyard, we were proud to produce beautifully structured, complex and delicious wines from the challenging vintage.

### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The 2020 vintage is a full and complex wine that's an absolute pleasure to drink. Aromas of black currant and boysenberry waft from the glass. As the wine opens up, it reveals aromas of clove, coriander and cedar. On the palate, the wine is plush with fine tannins and full of luxuriant flavors of black cherry, ripe raspberry, nutmeg, cinnamon and fennel. The finish is seamless and well-integrated. This wine will age beautifully and develop in the bottle for years to come.

### BLEND

70% Merlot  
23% Cabernet Sauvignon  
5% Malbec  
2% Cabernet Franc

### FERMENTATION

11-17 days in fermenters at 82-88°F;  
pumped over twice daily

### BARREL AGING

20 months in French, Hungarian  
and American oak; 33% new oak

ALCOHOL | 13.5%

BRIX | 24.8

PH | 3.66

TA | 6.2 g/L

### HARVEST DATES

September 12–October 9, 2020

VINE AGE | 14–30 years

### SOILS

Rocky, iron-rich soils

### YIELDS

4–5 tons per acre

### PREVIOUS VINTAGE

92  
POINTS

WINEENTHUSIAST  
2019