

# LAVA CAP WINERY



## 2020 ESTATE BOTTLED MERLOT

### ABOUT LAVA CAP

Founded in 1981, Lava Cap Winery is a third generation family farm, located in the Sierra Foothills, at an elevation of 2,700ft. The winery and Estate Vineyards are located on a unique outcropping of volcanic soil, the inspiration for the wineries name. The result of elevation and distinct soils are wines that erupt with flavor.

### VINEYARD NOTES

Our Merlot vineyard is planted in a low lying draw that has dense soils suitable for premium Merlot. The soil is derived from decomposed lahar flows that occurred between 4-10 million years ago, creating a young volcanic soil that allows for the development of intense and lush fruit flavors. To increase complexity we planted our Merlot vines on north and west facing aspects at elevations ranging from 2400 to 2600 feet elevation, creating variations in the ripening process that allows Lava Cap to make a wine with a strong mid palate and lengthy finish. Like all of our vineyards, we farm this vineyard with our Fish Friendly sustainability guidelines to ensure a healthy watershed from the steep draw where the vines are planted.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

The Merlot berries were fermented for 10 days on the skins with frequent punchdowns. To preserve the well structured cherry flavors and full bodied fruit characteristics, the wine was aged for 22 months in 2nd fill French oak. This delicate balance allows the slight toastiness to present itself on the finish without taking the spotlight from the fruit.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Harvest Dates: Late September & early October 2020

Vineyard: Lava Cap Estate

Elevation: 2,600'

Aging: 22 Months in 2nd fill Francois Freres French Oak

Cases Produced: 400

Alc: 14.5%

PH: 3.7

TA: 6.0