

LAVA CAP

WINERY

EL DORADO A.V.A.

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.



2023 ESTATE BOTTLED
MERLOT

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

Our 202 Merlot was picked in two phases, with an earlier pick contributing freshness and a later pick adding density and weight to the blend. Both lots were fermented in stainless steel tanks, with two pumpovers daily. Fermentation temperatures were moderate, never topping 80 degrees. The lots were aged separately until blending. The wine was aged for 18 months in 100% French oak.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Harvest Dates: October 2023
Blend: 100% Merlot
Vineyard: Lava Cap Estate
Elevation: 2,600'
Aging: 18 Months in Francois Freres French Oak
Cases Produced: 700
Alc: 14.5%
PH: 3.6
TA: 6.0

95 PTS
GOLD
CALIFORNIA
STATE FAIR