



*Napa Valley*

MERLOT

2 0 2 0

# ATHENAEUM

## BRAND STORY

Gathering place for inspired minds. Classic in style – Athenaeum showcases distinct wines from the Napa Valley.

## VINTAGE

The 2020 vintage started with a warm, dry winter that eventually shifted to cold, rainy weather in late March. The mild spring weather conditions provided an early start to the season as we transitioned to summer days filled with cool mornings and warm afternoons. Unfortunately, harvest was interrupted by two wildfires that broke out in the area: the LNU Complex Fire started on August 17th and the Glass Fire started on September 27th. As a result, this vintage is expected to be smaller than usual.

## GRAPE SOURCING

Napa Valley is one of the most premier wine growing regions of the world. Grapes thrive in the valley's warm days and cool, foggy evenings. The moderate climate allows grapes to ripen slowly and evenly with well-balanced acidity levels yielding world class wines that can be enjoyed today or cellared for several years to come.

## WINEMAKING

We gently harvest the grapes then bring them straight to the winery to be de-stemmed and transferred into stainless steel to ferment. We raised the fermentation temperature to extract color and fruit flavors from the grapes. Once fermentation is complete, the wine was delicately racked into French and American Oak barrels (35% new) for twelve months of aging.

## TASTING NOTES

Athenaeum Merlot radiates with extraordinary depth and charisma showcasing aromas and flavors of blackberry, plum and chocolate. The finish is long and seamless accented by richly textured tannins to complete this masterpiece.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon

REGION: Napa Valley

PH: 3.57

ALCOHOL: 14% By Vol.

TOTAL ACIDITY: 0.58g/100mL

