



LA JOIE
SONOMA COUNTY
VINTAGE 2021

Inspired by the classic wines from the Pauillac region of Bordeaux, Vérité La Joie is blended from numerous mature plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot, grown along the steep hillsides and volcanic benches of the Mayacamas Mountains.

TASTING NOTES

This vintage of La Joie wears a saturated dark purple core of color, surrounded by a thin violet rim. The nose is linear and focused, with complex aromas of fresh plum, crushed pomegranate, and black currant, along with non-fruit characters of pen ink, fresh bay leaf, Maduro tobacco, and French oak nuances of toasted cinnamon, and toasted clove. The palate is bolstered by firm tannins and acidity, but flushed with youthful primary fruit, sweet spices, and subtle herbs. On the finish, each of these elements has its moment of prominence before relenting to tenacious dark cocoa tannins and iron minerality. Young and integrating now, this wine will age for decades.

— *Tasting Date: March 2024*

BARREL AGING

Aged 16 months in French oak, 95% new

VARIETAL BREAKDOWN

71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

APPELLATIONS

Alexander Valley, Bennett Valley, Chalk Hill, Knights Valley

ALCOHOL

13.9%

ACCLAIM

96 - 98 Points - Erin Brooks, *Robert Parker Wine Advocate*, August 2023

98 - 100 Points - Audrey Frick, *JebDunnuck.com*, November 2023

VIGNERON NOTES

The 2021 Sonoma County growing season was preceded by a very chilly winter with below average rainfall, marking a second straight year of drought in Northern California.

To ensure balance between the vines and available soil nutrients in the coming vintage, our vineyard teams carefully pruned each vine throughout the cold winter months, reducing the number of clusters each would be asked to ripen. Cool temperatures persisted into early spring, pushing Budbreak a bit later than average, but by early May the weather warmed up beautifully, delivering a fine start to the growing season. The summer months brought sunny, warm weather with characteristically cool nighttime temperatures, and only a few minor heat spikes.

These conditions produced remarkable quality fruit, yielding wines of concentration and balance, with brilliant acidity and restrained alcohol levels. Harvest took place between September 2 and September 27.

— Pierre Seillan, Vigneron

— Hélène Seillan, Assistant Winemaker