



LA MUSE
SONOMA COUNTY
VINTAGE 2021

Merlot-dominant La Muse delivers incredible depth and texture using the finest grape sources from the top micro-crus of eastern Sonoma County. La Muse was first produced in 1998 and was inspired by the finest wines of Pomerol. Vigneron Pierre Seillan tends to a mosaic of more than fifty micro-crus to produce the complex signature of La Muse.

TASTING NOTES

2021 La Muse radiates a luminous ruby-violet core, ringed by a thin violet meniscus. Possessing both vibrance and suppleness, the nose reveals bright aromatics of crunchy blackberry and cranberry, contrasted by rich caffè macchiato, English toffee, toasted vanilla, and warm baking spices from elevage in French oak. The dichotomy evolves further on the palate, where the fruit takes on a palpable richness, countered by brisk tannins and focused acidity. The finish is satisfyingly long, marked by ample fruit, mouth-watering acidity, and crushed stone minerality. Reminiscent of other highly structured vintages in their infancy, 2021 La Muse will age for many decades.

— *Tasting Date: March 2024*

BARREL AGING

Aged 16 months in French oak, 95% new

VARIETAL BREAKDOWN

90% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec

APPELLATIONS

Alexander Valley, Bennett Valley, Chalk Hill, Knights Valley

ALCOHOL

14.1%

ACCLAIM

93-96 Points – Erin Brooks, *Robert Parker Wine Advocate*, August 2023

97-99 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