

IRONSTONE VINEYARDS MERLOT 2023

Lodi, California



IRONSTONE
Vineyards



TASTING NOTES: The 2023 Ironstone Merlot offers vibrant, fruit-forward characteristics supported by soft tannins and outstanding drinkability. Notes of ripe black cherry and black plum lead the palate, complemented by the subtle hints of vanilla and toasted oak. Layers of currant, juicy dark fruit, and spicy cedar carry through to a rounded, well-balanced, and complex finish.

VITICULTURE: Merlot grapes, for this vintage, were grown in several of Lodi's sub-appellations including Alta Mesa and Sloughhouse. These different locations provide diverse soils and climate that, when combined, create a more complex wine than one vineyard location alone.

VINIFICATION: Aged 8 months in French Oak

INTERESTING FACT: Ironstone practices sustainable viticultural such as crop reduction, leaf removal, organic materials and drip irrigation to improve the quality of the grapes and intensity of flavors. Cover crops, which attract beneficial insects, are also employed, as well as the placement of owl and wood duck boxes around the vineyards and ponds to help preserve the surrounding habitats.

FAMILY: In 1926, the Kautz family began farming in the Lodi region and in 1958, John Kautz Farms was founded. In 1988, John and his wife Gail, along with their children, Stephen, Kurt, Joan and Jack, built a state-of-the-art winery and entertainment facility in the town of Murphys, the heart of the Gold Rush era, producing their first vintage in 1989. They followed this purchase with Bear Creek, one of the oldest continuously running wineries in Lodi, in 1997. Their vineyard holdings grew exponentially over the next 30 years, to 7,000 acres in both the Sierra Foothills and Lodi. Ironstone's location in Calaveras County, affectionately known as the "Queen of the Sierras," boasts mineral-rich, volcanic terroir, ideal for growing the wide range of varieties that run the gamut, from Chenin Blanc to Zinfandel.

PRODUCER: Ironstone Vineyards

REGION: Lodi, California

GRAPE(S): 76% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 6% Souzao, 5% Tannat, 4% Red Blend, 2% Syrah

SKU: IVME7-23

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.6 G/L

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 3.9 G/L

pH: 3.51