

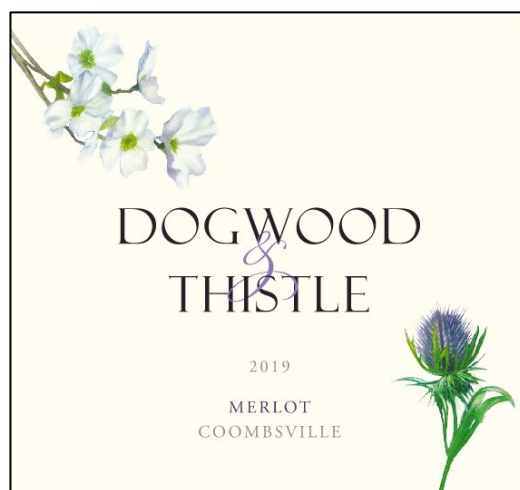
DOGWOOD & THISTLE

Dogwood & Thistle is a passion project which allows us to work with small lots of fruit and make the wines that we love to drink and dream of sharing.

With the dogwood being the state flower of Virginia (where Erin was born and raised), and the thistle being the flower of Scotland (where much of Sandy's family is from), the name represents our personal and professional backgrounds coming together to build a life that we love.

2019 Coombsville Merlot

<i>Harvest Dates</i>	<i>9/30/2019 and 10/5/2019</i>
<i>Fermentation</i>	<i>Open top</i>
<i>Malolactic Fermentation</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Barrel Aging</i>	<i>A mix of once and twice used French oak barrels</i>
<i>Varietal</i>	<i>84% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
<i>Appellation</i>	<i>Napa Valley, Coombsville</i>
<i>Release Date</i>	<i>10/1/2021</i>
<i>Cases Produced</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Price</i>	<i>\$46</i>



Vineyard notes: The fruit for our one-off release of Napa Valley Merlot comes from a secret vineyard source that we are not at liberty to name, and that we got our hands on through a connection with a dear friend. What we *can* say is that the vineyard is ten pristine acres devoted entirely to Merlot, and that they also sell fruit to some of the big names in Napa. We are honored and excited to have been able to work with this fruit.

Winemaking techniques: The Merlot was picked overnight and then hand sorted and processed in the winery first thing in the morning. 100% of the fruit was destemmed then chilled for a period of cold soak to maximize gentle extraction. At the end of cold soak the fruit was allowed to warm up and inoculated for fermentation, and then punched over twice a day. It was co-fermented with the Cabernet Sauvignon (sourced from friends in St. Helena and on Howell Mountain), and once fermentation was complete the tank was drained and pressed. The wine was racked a few times as needed and then bottled 20 months after picking.

Tasting notes: This classic Napa Valley Merlot has a deep, rich color, with chocolate, cherries, fig, violets and white pepper on the nose and dark fruit, brambles and a nice richness on the palate. Drink now if you like, or cellar for a few years - this wine will continue to mature, develop and grow as time goes on.

Owners, *Erin & Sandy Robertson*