



2021 MERLOT “AUX RAYNAUDS”

This wine comes primarily from our tiny block of Merlot dedicated to Alain Raynaud and his family of Bordeaux. At once a great innovator and a great traditionalist, Doctor Raynaud taught David Jeffrey much of what he knows of the wines of Bordeaux when he worked at Chateau Quinault in St. Emilion. In return, Calluna offers *Aux Raynauds* as a wine reminiscent of that region — with Merlot French Clone 181 on 420a rootstock, and a bit of Cabernet Franc — combined with the signature of our Sonoma *terroir*.

This vineyard sits on an essentially flat plateau near the top of the property with a significant element of clay, the soil type in which Merlot thrives.

Varietal Breakdown:

90% Merlot
10% Cabernet Franc

TECHNICAL DETAILS

<i>Appellation</i>	<i>Cooperage</i>
Chalk Hill	21 months in 20% new French oak barrels
<i>Harvest dates</i>	<i>pH</i>
Merlot: September 16, 2021	3.55
Cabernet Franc: October 4, 2021	
<i>Winemaking</i>	<i>Alcohol</i>
Hand-harvested, manually sorted and fermented with a traditional method in open-top tanks with temperature control.	13.5%
	<i>Production</i>
	225 cases
	<i>Release date</i>
	Spring 2024

Vintage

2021 will be remembered as a mercifully “normal” growing season, especially as it was bookended by 2020 (fires, smoke and heat spikes) and 2022 (the highest heat spikes we have ever experienced). 2021 was still part of the drought years, so the growing season kicked off on the earlier side, as was becoming the norm. But there were no major fires nor significant heat spikes, and Calluna did not really feel the drought because we have adequate water (which is used sparingly anyway). So overall we have a very fine vintage for you in 2021.

ABOUT CALLUNA VINEYARDS

Calluna Vineyards took root in Sonoma County in 2005 with 12-acres in the Chalk Hill appellation planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. From its advantageous hillsides overlooking the Russian River Valley, Chalk Hill is known for its mild climate and soils of clay underlain with fractured shale and sandstone. Five more acres were added in 2014, including Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon for the production of our white wine, Calluna Estate Blanc.

DAVID A. JEFFREY, *Winemaker and Founder*

After 20 years of studying and collecting the wines of Bordeaux and California, David moved to the West Coast and enrolled in Fresno State’s Enology program in 2001. Determined to make his dream a reality, David spent 3½ years studying winemaking and grape growing as he completed his degree and worked at Chateau Quinault in Bordeaux, France.