

## ***Winemaker's Notes***

### ***2022 Cellar Reserve Merlot***

**VARIETY:** Cellar Reserve Merlot

(78% Merlot, 11% Sangiovese, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Malbec)

**Appellation:** Texas High Plains

**ALCOHOL:** 14.1%

**pH:** 3.6

**ACIDITY:** 6.9 g/L (AS TARTARIC)

**RESIDUAL SUGAR:** 1.4g/L

**OAKING:**

Heavily toasted French oak from Boise cooperage in contact for several weeks, and matured in neutral oak barrels until bottling

**UPC NUMBER:** 0-88596-11909-2

**TIES/PALLET:** 5

**750ML BOTTLES/CASE:** 12

**CASES/TIE:** 15

**CASES/PALLET:** 75

**WEIGHT LBS/CS:** 34



From selected small batches of wines, our Cellar Select wines represent the finest Llano has to offer. Our goal is to produce a wine that exhibits the true expression of this variety from our best Texas vineyards.

The 2022 Cellar Reserve Merlot is mostly Merlot (78%) sourced from the Lili of the Vine Vineyard and Newsom vineyards in the Texas High Plains AVA. The remainder of the blend is sourced from Dell Valley Vineyard in far West Texas and Kubacak vineyards in New Home.

We developed a new oak profile by using Boise Oak and integrated with Micro oxygenation over several weeks. The blend was then pumped into neutral barrels, lees and all, during the third week of December. Bottling occurred in late Summer 2023.

This wine exhibits a ruby red color with an almost opaque core. Black fruits, mixed with toasty oak and herbal nuances comprise the aromatics of this wine. The tannins are weighty but soft because of the low acidity, creating pleasant texture and a lengthy finish. This process creates a very food friendly wine, with some of our favorite pairings being roasted/grilled meats, BBQ, and Tex-Mex!