HILL FAMILY
ESTATE

2023 “Beau Terre Vineyards” Merlot

Production: 404 cases
Composition: 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards: Beau Terroir, Baker, Stewart and Beau Terre
Appellation: Atlas Peak, Oak Knoll and Carneros
Cooperage: 38% new French oak
Alcohol: 14.5%, TA 5.7, pH 3.7
Bottling date: April 2, 2025
Release date: Winter 2026
Release price: $62.00

Hill Family Estate takes Merlot quite seriously, and we believe the Merlot grape has an elegance to offer that is different from Cabernet Sauvignon. The Beau Terre Vineyards are centerpieces for Doug Hill’s accumulated viticultural knowledge. From the row spacing to the trellising, the row direction and clones selected, everything has been carefully thought-out to give Merlot its best expression. 2023 was a cool year with late bud break, bloom, and veraison. We were able to make lovely rich Merlots because of 10 days of warm weather at the end of October, so we brought in the last of the Beau Terroir Merlot on November 3 at 24.9 Brix and rejoiced!

Winemaker Kari Auringer’s tasting notes:

We love and appreciate Merlot for its ability to be true to place. It reflects where it is grown, the soils it is grown in and the care taken throughout the growing season. The Beau Terre vineyard is that special place that produces outstanding Merlot year to year. This was a cooler vintage which accentuates the ripe berry aromas and soft juicy mid-palate. Dark and rich, this wine shows what carefully tended vines and attentive winemaking can produce.