DAOU

RESERVE MERLOT
TEMPLETON GAP DISTRICT

2024

This DAOU Reserve Merlot is a special selection that reflects our founding passion for Bordeaux varieties grown in Paso Robles. Here, Merlot excels in the Templeton Gap District, where persistent marine breezes and calcareous soils produce a wine of remarkable weight, structure and silkiness.



Wine Profile

The Templeton Gap District is named for a notch in the coastal mountains west of Paso Robles, where a resulting inflow of cool ocean air is perfect for growing world-class Merlot. This special AVA bottling is deep maroon in color with a distinct aroma profile of violet, black plum, strawberry compote, nutmeg and espresso. Dark red fruits fill the mouth and expand with intricate notes of tobacco, caramel, sage, pepper and mocha. Bright tannins bring freshness and structure to a lush, medium-weight finish.

The Vintage

The 2024 growing season began with abundant winter rains that replenished the soils and set the stage for healthy canopy development. Up to 21 inches of rainfall was observed, with the last storm landing in mid April. Temperatures remained mild through spring and early summer, followed by a two-week heat event starting in early July. The remainder of summer was marked by warm days coupled with cool evenings—a trend that led to optimal ripening and smaller berries with concentrated flavors. The harvest season saw two heatwaves that were punctuated by sustained cooling-off periods, allowing the DAOU vineyard team to pause and wait for peak maturation before picking. The resulting wines combine density and power with elegance and freshness, delivering a memorable vintage from Paso Robles.

The Vineyards

The Templeton Gap District AVA is named after a dip in the Santa Lucia Mountain range that divides the Pacific Ocean coastline from the warmer interior of Paso Robles. This distinct geographic feature provides a pathway for cool marine air to flow inland and into the vineyards of the Templeton Gap District. Situated in the foothills south of downtown Paso Robles, this AVA features diverse soils including broad alluvial terraces with gravelly loam, clay loam and limestone. These soils, combined with a long, ocean-cooled growing season, produce wines with fresh natural acidity and elegantly defined flavors.

Aging

20 months in 50% new French oak

Alcohol %

14.7%

Varietal

100% Merlot

AVA

Templeton Gap District, Paso Robles