



# UNCORKED BY THE SEA



Cellar Club February 2022

## 2017 Markham Altruist Bordeaux Blend- Napa Valley, California

In 1980, Markham crafted its first vintage of Napa Valley Merlot—becoming only the fourth winery in Napa Valley to make varietal Merlot—and a decade later, Markham’s flagship bottling was named “Merlot of the Year” by Wine Spectator. Today, Markham continues to make benchmark Napa Valley Merlots. Their wines are crafted by Winemaker Kimberlee Nicholls, who has been with Markham for over two decades. Markham’s wines have earned much acclaim for their vineyard-inspired complexity and character. Markham practices sustainability without sacrificing quality. This wine is a blend of 68% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec, and 5% Cabernet Franc. This “right bank” Bordeaux style red blend allows the velvety Merlot flavors to shine. With 15 months of French & American oak aging, the opulent notes of cherry and plum jam are layered with aromas of cola, vanilla, and toast. Juicy raspberry, dark cherry and dark currant flavors show creamy aspects, backed by firm acidity and tannins. Chocolate mousse accents come in on the rich finish. The wine is dedicated to first responders and Markham supports those who serve our country and communities with an annual donation. 90 PTS WW, 90 PTS WS

Pairings: Enjoy the subtle textures with grilled chicken and roasted vegetables. Red meats, lamb and beef dishes as well as barbequed red meats and dark-meat fowl, or venison are also great pairings. Bordeaux-style blends pair with rich desserts, such as dark chocolate.

## 2020 Bennett Valley Chardonnay- Sonoma, California

Bennett Valley Cellars began its journey 60 years ago in the Veneto region in Italy. Young Emilio Zanin worked in his grandfather's vineyard where he learned to make fine wine. After immigrating to the United States, Emilio and his family have accomplished their life-long ambition of having their own vineyards. Nestled in the pristine Bennett Valley appellation within Sonoma Valley, Bennett Valley Cellars farms 40 acres of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay on two ranches: Simpatico Ranch and Marina's Vineyard. The well-drained volcanic alluvial soils and fog-cooled climate create ideal growing environment for producing wines with flavors and aromatic characteristics unique to this beautiful valley. Bright fresh aromas of apple and pear with hints of lemon zest and flint make this wine stand out from typical Chardonnay. The absence of oak allows the fruit and mineral flavors to mingle with the bright acidity and finish clean on the palate.

Pairings: The wine is refreshing on its own or pairs very well with it pairs very well with flaky white fish like halibut and seafood dishes based on shellfish like crab, lobster, shrimp, and mussels. You'll also find that it pairs well with cheese, and spicy cuisine.