



Wonderful World of Wine

November 2025
Gary Parker Collection

2021 Whitehall Lane Merlot

Growing Region.....	Napa Valley, California
Varietal Composition.....	82% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon 7% Malbec, 3% Petite Verdot/Cab Franc
Fermentation.....	100% Oak, 35% New, 20 Months in Barrel
Alcohol Content.....	14.9%
Suggested Retail.....	\$40.00
WineSeller Club Price.....	\$31.49

Broad Strokes: 95 Points Norm Roby, Wine Review OnLine

From the Winery: Whitehall Lane Winery was founded in 1979, but the history of the soil cultivation dates back two centuries. In the mid 1800's, Napa Valley settlers were drawn to the gravelly-loam soils and ideal climate, planting high quality grape vines at the Whitehall Lane Winery site.

A barn constructed in the early 1900's for equipment storage is still used today. In 1979, two brothers started the winery and directed their winemaking efforts successfully to Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. In its short history, Whitehall Lane has developed into a world-class winery. The efforts of the Leonardini Family are evident in the run of accolades, but are even more apparent in their elegant, beautifully made wines.

Appearance:

Although I like the clarity and direct messaging the bottle package provides, I feel the overall look is a bit grocery store like, especially for a wine of this quality. The wine is black to opaque in the middle, bleeding out to a nearly garnet edge. The wine is clear as it clings to the bowl after swirling.

Nose:

A fabulous and complex bouquet of dark plum, dark chocolate, mixed dark berries, grilled bread, roasted nuts, black pepper, and freshly crushed herbs.

Texture:

Rounded and full in the mouth. You can tell this is a top tier wine as it opens with air and continues to bring on multi-dimensional layers of complexity. Perfect tannins and acids lead to a very well-balanced middle palate and finish, guaranteeing years of evolution in the bottle for aging well.

Flavor:

The Whitehall Lane 2021 Merlot has forward, gorgeous blueberry fruit tones, with dark plum, ripe cherry fruit, smoke, tobacco and fresh herbs. It reminded me of my youth when Dad smoked a pipe for a while, using a cherry tobacco blend.

Serving Suggestions:

Why not drop 6-12 bottles in your cellar to drink after the year 2030.

