



# 2020 STRATUM



## VINTAGE NOTES

Up and down the western slopes of Sonoma's Mayacamas Mountains lie rare deposits of volcanic soils brimming with energy and tension. Through deep yet wide-ranging analysis of these elusive terroirs and the application of ultra-precision farming and winemaking, Hamel has captured a pure expression of these qualities in a new Cabernet Sauvignon blend. In homage to the central role geologic exploration played in crafting this wine and in recognition of it being a singular expression of an expansive area, we call it "Stratum."

## TASTING NOTES

Dark ruby swirling in the glass, the bouquet reveals dark cherry, plum and cassis, complemented by notes of violets, cedar and iron. Dark fruit flavors envelop a sanguine mineral core on the palate, framed by fine, supple tannins and a refreshing vibrancy. Balanced and classically poised, the wine shows an intricate, chalky minerality that brings flavor and persistence. Enjoyable in the near-term, the wine will continue to develop over the next 10 years.

## ACCOLADES

### 90 POINTS

ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

"...understated scents of cassis, balsamic, dried herbs, coffee and meaty tones. ...medium-bodied with restrained, mineral-driven flavors and a refreshing finish."

— Erin Brooks, October 2024

### 92 POINTS

JEB DUNNUCK

"...fresh with mineral earth, fresh cherry, and red flowers. ...notes of fresh soil, black berry, and a bit of meaty richness, as well as ripe tannins and a clean finish with a savory edge."

— Audrey Frick, July 2024

## INFORMATION

Variety	66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot		
Vineyard	77% Nuns Canyon Vineyard, 23% Hamel Family Ranch		
Appellation	Sonoma Valley	Harvest Dates	8.31.20 – 9.19.20
Vintage	2020	Bottling Date	6.27.22
Production	1,987 cases	Alcohol	14.3%
Fermentation	56% Neutral French Oak Barrels, 30% Stainless Steel Tanks, 14% Concrete Eggs		
Aging	2 months in 72% neutral French oak casks, 9% new French oak barrels, 19% 1-year-old French oak barrels followed by 5 months in 100% concrete tanks.		



2020 STRATUM  
RED WINE  
SONOMA VALLEY

95 PTS

THE  
tastingpanel  
MAGAZINE

"From the western slopes of the Mayacamas, volcanic soils of rhyolitic colluvium and fractured basalt play an integral role in shaping the character of this estate blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot. Seamless, luscious, and broad, with suede tannins capturing ripe red cherry and cinnamon tea. A dusty cocoa-plum profile exudes pulchritude and charm."

– Meredith May  
July 2025



2019 ISTHMUS  
RED WINE  
SONOMA VALLEY

96 PTS

Robert Parker  
WINE ADVOCATE

"It has a deep ruby color and a nose that is bursting with Morello cherries, baked blueberries, charcuterie, fried savory herbs and peppercorn—complex yet open for business. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is concentrated and oral with persistent acidity, silty tannins and fragrant violet and graphite nuances on the long finish."

– Erin Brooks  
March 2023



2019 HAMEL  
FAMILY RANCH  
SONOMA VALLEY

96 PTS

JEB DUNNUCK

"...Expressive and pure, with fruity aromatics of redcurrant, fresh flowers, spices, and cedar. This full-bodied red is light on its feet, with notes of kirsch, soft, gravelly stones, and fresh herbs as well as fine tannins and good, fresh acidity. It's drinking beautifully now or can be enjoyed over the next 10 or more years."

– Audrey Frick  
July 2023



2019 NUNS  
CANYON VINEYARD  
SONOMA VALLEY

95 PTS

JEB DUNNUCK

"I love its layered aromas of red and black fruit, fresh wild herbs, and lifted graphitic earth. Full-bodied without weight, it has great structure, with loads of rocky earth, black cherry, black raspberry, and savory herbs, as well as notes of olive on the finish. I love this wine for aging another couple of years and to drink over the following 15."

– Audrey Frick  
July 2023