

## What is Meritage?

Some of the most famous wines in the world come from the Bordeaux region of France. Chateau Lafite-Rothschild, for instance, is a Bordeaux blend. Meritage, pronounced like heritage, first appeared in the late 1980s after a group of American vintners joined forces to create a name for New World wines blended in the tradition of Bordeaux. The word was selected from more than 6,000 entries in an international contest. Meritage combines “merit,” reflecting the quality of grapes, with “heritage,” which recognizes the centuries-old tradition of blending, long considered to be the highest form of the winemaker’s art. A Red Meritage is a blend of two or more of the red “noble” Bordeaux varieties – Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot and the rarer St. Macaire, Gros Verdot and Carmenère. If the blend includes any other grape variety, it is, by definition, **not** a Meritage. Also, to qualify as a Meritage, no single grape variety can make up more than 90% of the blend.

We do not produce a White Meritage but if we did it would have to be a blend of at least two of three specific white “noble” varieties – Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon or Muscadelle du Bordelais. No single variety can make up more than 90% of the blend. Our Braganini Reserve Meritage is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. The Percentages of the grapes in our blend vary from year to year. We blend to achieve the very best red wine possible from 100% Michigan grapes grown in The Lake Michigan Shore Appellation. Our Meritage is highly regarded for its aging potential yet is completely approachable in its youth.