8. Sullivan Rutherford Estate, 2021 Coeur de Vigne | *USA*

Origin: Napa Valley, California, USA
Varietals: 80% Cabernet 14% Merlot 6% Petit Verdot
Price: $79.99
ABV: 14.8%

The heritage of Sullivan Rutherford Estate dates back two centuries to 1821 when ownership of the Napa Valley transitioned from Spain to Mexico. Twenty years later, the Napa Valley was divided into two parcels through a land grant given by Governor Juan Alvarado — Rancho Caymus to the south, and Rancho Carne Humana to the north. Sullivan's property lies on this historic division. The first pioneers in Napa Valley winemaking, namely Captain Niebaum and Georges de Latour, landed in Rutherford in the late 1800s and produced the most noteworthy New World wines of that time. In 1918, Virgile Galleron acquired 402 acres in Rutherford with the purpose of farming the land. Nearly 60 years later, James O'Neil Sullivan purchased 26 acres in Rutherford from the Galleron family and planted Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon under the guidance of his good friend and legendary winemaker, André Tchelistcheff.

This wine delivers aromas of blue and black fruit, floral notes, savory dark chocolate, and minerality. The well-proportioned, refined palate reveals firm but mature tannins, enhancing the wine's framework. The balance lingers through the finish, solidifying this wine with finesse and charisma.

> **Vintage notes:** A vintage with diminished yields, offering petite, intensely flavored berries crafting wines of notable density, concentration, and vigor.

> *For more information, visit the Sullivan Rutherford Estate official website.*

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