



2016 MERLOT COLUMBIA VALLEY

Varietal Composition:	100% Merlot
Appellation:	Columbia Valley
Bottled:	June 28, 2018
Technical Data:	Alc. 14.5% by vol.; RS: 0.1%; TA: 5.86 g/L; pH: 3.49
Cases Produced:	1069
Production & Aging:	Aged 20 months in 40% new French oak

THE VINTAGE

Warmer temperatures in Spring accelerated an early start to the 2016 growing season with our first crush taking place on August 22nd. Washington State experienced cooler temperatures midsummer which slowed ripening. The change in temperature controlled acid levels in the fruit while enhancing berry phenolics. It also lengthened the harvest for the season allowing our later varieties plenty of hang time and flavor development, with the last fruit being picked November 12th.

THE VINEYARD

Sourced from a collection of award winning vineyards in Washington state’s Columbia Valley AVA including 42% Tudor Hills, 33% McKinley Springs and 23% Elephant Mountain Vineyard..

THE WINEMAKING

Throughout harvest, Winemaker Richard Batchelor worked closely with local growers and visited each vineyard to taste for maturity and ripeness to determine the precise moment to pick the fruit. Grapes were hand-harvested during the cool hours of the morning to preserve bright fruit notes. Each lot underwent a five day pre-fermentation cold soak before the tank was allowed to go through a native fermentation to dryness lasting roughly 21 days. Each lot was fermented separately and then blended before bottling to allow the tannins to meld together. To craft this wine, only the free run juice was collected and no press fraction was blended. The wine was then barrel aged for 20 months in new French oak. For the first year this wine was stirred in barrel on its lees and racked when necessary to soften the tannins. After the first 12 months the wine was racked off the lees for clarity before blending and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Summer fruits hit the nose with hints of dried leaves and subtle oak spiciness. The palate yields soft tannins, with dried herbs, chocolate and cocoa, finishing with a graceful waltz.

AWARDS

Gold; 2019 Seattle Wine Awards



Pacific Northwest Winery of the Year
Wine Press Northwest, 2015

Winery of the Year
San Francisco International, 2014

Top 10 Winery of the World
World Association of Wine Writers & Journalists, 2014

Winemaker of the Year
INDY International, 2013