



2019 MERLOT COLUMBIA VALLEY

Varietal Composition:	Gunkel Orchards (Estate) 79%, Tudor Hills Vineyard 21%
Appellation	Columbia Valley
Bottled:	November 6, 2020
Technical Data:	Alc. 14.2% by vol; RS: 0.01; TA: 5.71 g/l; pH 3.41
Cases Produced:	1867
Production & Aging:	Aged for 9 months in 20% new French oak and 20% new America oak

THE VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season was a consistently temperate season. Few extreme heat days allowed for even vine ripening and little stress on grape flavor development. While some areas in the Columbia Valley were impacted from early season frosts, Maryhill saw little damage in the locations that grapes were sourced from. The acids held well across white and red wines and will deliver great brightness in the whites and graceful aging for years to come in the reds.

THE VINEYARD

Sourced from award-winning vineyards in Washington State's Columbia Valley.

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 and new American 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

Rich aromas of black currant, plum, and chocolate with a hint of anise and cedar. More juicy fruit on the palate with blackberry, crushed dried herbs, and a subtle char of grilled meat and a warm cedar finish.

AWARDS

New release.



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 Assn. of Wine Writers & Journalists, 2014

Winemaker of the Year
INDY International, 2019, 2018 & 2013

Most Valuable Producer
Washington Wine Awards 2022