



2012 Merlot, Columbia Valley

Vineyards: Select hand farmed vineyards in Walla Walla, Red Mountain, and Wahluke Slope AVAs

Grapes: 100% Merlot

Vintage: Warm growing conditions, with moderate heat unit accumulation spread throughout the ripening season with normal yields

Ageing: Small, open top fermenters. Aged 16 months in American, Hungarian, Russian, and French oak, 25% new

Aroma: Raspberry, red cherry, vanilla cream, sarsaparilla root

Taste: Generous and lush with blackberry, red currant, Asian plum, Ranier cherry, vanilla, toffee, white pepper, vanillin, roasted nut, and cinnamon

Vegan: Yes

Alcohol: 14.2%

Lot size: 500 cases

Winemaker's Notes

We have been dedicated to Bordeaux's "other" noble grape since we first planted Merlot in 1982 in the Walla Walla Valley. We didn't dare dream that Washington's Columbia Valley would become arguably the best place in the New World to grow Merlot with our perfect combination of warm days and cool nights resulting in a full and generous Merlot with ample structure and vibrancy. This wine is drawn from small, select, hand-farmed vineyards in Walla Walla Valley, Red Mountain, and Wahluke Slope AVAs.

After careful vinification in small, open top fermenters, the wine was aged for 16 months in a selection of French, American, Hungarian, and Russian oaks resulting in a wine with spice box like complexity. It is supple and generous with loads of blackberry, currant, Ranier cherry, vanilla, toffee, and spice character. This wine is already drinking beautifully at release, but will age well for 4-7 years past vintage date.

Casey McClellan, Winemaker

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