



2017

# MERLOT

Complex fruit from Double Canyon Vineyard makes up the majority of our 2017 Merlot blend. Due to the tighter spacing and low cordon in this particular block, a higher percentage of energy reached the balanced clusters. A small portion of fruit from a beautiful south-facing slope at Wallula Vineyard was blended in the final cuvée and provides this wine with a definite brightness and structure. These two distinct lots matured in barrel for 20 months and only 18% new oak was utilized to retain freshness and preserve the expressive aromatics of Merlot.

The nose reveals hints of raspberry, rhubarb and rose petal with subtle nuances of warm oak in the background. Intriguing notes of ripe stone fruits, lavender and pomegranate gives the aroma definite layers and great distinction. The roundness and balance of the mid-palate remind me of the traditional right bank Bordeaux's that also possess much needed acidity, and in this case framing the wine very well.

Red berry fruit lingers throughout the mouthfeel with subtlety and finesse, woven and integrated well with fair acidity and soft tannin, allowing you to take the opportunity to enjoy this wine by itself or with a great meal. Grilled chicken, charcuterie or a pork casserole with prune sauce will treat this Merlot very well. Enjoy!

## TECHNICAL DATA

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**VARIETIES:** 100% Merlot

**APPELLATION:** Columbia Valley

**VINEYARDS:** Double Canyon, Wallula

**OAK:** 91% French, 9% American, 18% new, 20 months

**ALC:** 15.3%    **PH:** 3.78    **T.A.** 5.4g/L    **R.S.** 0.2g/L

**PRODUCTION:** 247 cases