



## 2020 Columbia Valley Merlot

### VINTAGE

The 2020 growing season will be remembered for low yields, warm summer weather and sufficient hang time to produce wines with intense aromas and concentrated flavors. Bud break began in mid-April, then conditions progressed at a moderate pace for the next six weeks before temperatures took a dip in early June. Warm weather returned in July, and temperatures stayed hot through the summer. Conditions were dry, allowing growers to control vine vigor through irrigation. Grapes were slow to ripen in early September, but by mid-month, the Columbia Valley settled into its usual pattern of warm days and cool nights. Ideal harvest conditions lasted into mid-October allowing vines to ripen light crop levels beautifully.

### VINEYARDS

One of the advantages of having made wine in the Columbia Valley since the mid-1980s is the opportunity it's given me to work with some of the most dedicated growers in the industry. Our Columbia Valley wines are made from a short list of vineyards I consider to be among the best in the state. The diversity of these vineyards-representing many of the most mature, carefully managed sites in Washington-provides for a full range of fruit expression that allows me to craft complex, multi-layered wines true to Columbia Valley *terroir* as well as the varietal character of the grapes. Our 2020 Columbia Valley Merlot includes grapes from Quintessence, Weinbau, Klipsun, and Ciel du Cheval vineyards.

### WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins in small lots for an average time of 8 days. After being pressed off, each lot of wine was moved to an equal mix of new and once used French oak barrels for 20 months of barrel aging during which time the wine was racked every 5 months.

### TASTING NOTES

This highly textured, medium-bodied Merlot reveals layers of dark raspberry, boysenberry and cocoa notes in the nose that translate into fleshy black fruit and chocolate flavors in the mouth. Brimming with a tremendous amount of texture and length, this wine should age gracefully for a minimum of 12-15 years.

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker

[www.januikwinery.com](http://www.januikwinery.com)



### ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....	0.54g/100ml
pH.....	3.65
Blend.....	90% Merlot 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases.....	951
Bottling Date.....	May 26, 2022