



2017 Columbia Valley Merlot

VINTAGE

Spring 2017 began with wet cool weather that caused a delayed bud break. A dry, hot summer put ripening back on a normal schedule and was followed by seemingly perfect fall conditions. This combination of growing conditions throughout the season produced smaller than normal berries and clusters and created wines of great intensity and flavor.

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 2017 Columbia Valley Merlot includes grapes from Klipsun, Champoux, Obelisco and Bacchus 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 21 months of barrel aging during which time the wine was raked every 5 months.

TASTING NOTES

This supple, medium-bodied Merlot shows layers of black cherry, boysenberry and plum 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 10-15 years.

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker

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ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....	0.54g/100ml
pH.....	3.70
Blend.....	95% Merlot 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases.....	577
Bottling Date.....	June 26, 2019