



2017 Champoux Vineyard 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.

VINEYARD

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. During all that time, Champoux Vineyard has stood at the top of my list of outstanding vineyards in Washington State. Located in the Horse Heaven Hills, this vineyard consistently produces wines with exceptional depth, complexity, and elegance.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins for 9 days. After being pressed off, this wine was aged for 22 months in primarily new French oak barrels to improve its already lengthy finish. Racking the wine every 5 months helped create lush tannins and a bold, stylish structure.

TASTING NOTES

Made from what is arguably Washington State's best vineyard for the variety, the Champoux Vineyard Merlot has a supple texture that is brimming with plum and raspberry fruits combined with chocolate and cedar notes. It fills the palate with rich, well-balanced tannins. Expect a very long life in your cellar for this wine.

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker

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ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....0.55g/100ml
pH.....3.72
Blend.....93% Merlot
7% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases.....391
Bottling Date.....June 13, 2019