



JANUIK

2019 Columbia Valley Merlot

VINTAGE

Spring 2019 began with cool weather in April that stretched into late spring. As the summer progressed the weather continued to warm and *veraison* began in August at the same time it would in a typical year. A smaller than normal crop supported even ripening well into the fall. Fully mature grapes with excellent natural acidity were harvested before a late October frost hit the region. Overall quality for the vintage was very high.

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 2019 Columbia Valley Merlot includes grapes from Quintessence, Ciel du Cheval, Weinbau, and Obelisco 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 velvety, medium-bodied Merlot reveals layers of black cherry, boysenberry and spice notes in the nose that translate into fleshy black fruit and cocoa 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



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....	0.54g/100ml
pH.....	3.70
Blend.....	92% Merlot 4% Cabernet Sauvignon 4% Cabernet Franc
Cases.....	971
Bottling Date.....	July 8, 2021