

# Merlot

LABEL: SMALL LOT

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2018



## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Black cherry, hazelnut & bright red fruit give way to nutmeg, clove and anise. The elegant tannin structure of this wine rounds the palate out and gives a nice foundation for an exquisite finish.

## VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Estate vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills. The fruit is exposed to dappled sunlight, allowing for uniform ripening and flavor development. Well balanced crop levels have allowed us to create wines with great depth and concentration.

## GROWING SEASON

The 2018 vintage started out nice and warm, ideal for a typical Washington harvest. We did not experience any major hot or cold temperatures September through October which lead to slow and even ripening and amazing flavor development.

## WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested and sorted in the vineyards with our "Selective Harvester" to allow for maximum hangtime and flavor development. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole-berry as possible. We fermented the fruit in stainless steel tanks with a combination of pumpovers and rack & returns (délestage) to control extraction and flavors. After fermentation, the wine was racked to barrels consisting of old and new French oak for malolactic fermentation. The wine was barrel aged for 20 months.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 89% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 14.5%

T.A: 0.40 g/100 ml

pH: 3.78

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## ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2018:

*San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition - Best of Class*

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