

# Malbec

LABEL: ROBERT WILLIS

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2019



## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Aromas of blueberry and blackberry are balanced with notes of warm baking spices and cigar. Notes of violet, anise and a hint of pepper add layers of complexity to the intense fruit. This powerful, yet sleek Malbec has a firm structure, robust fruit and a long, lingering finish.

## VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Spice Cabinet East Vineyard. Our Spice Cabinet Vineyard sits on a southeast slope above the Columbia River. The orientation of the block allows for morning sun exposure of the fruit, while avoiding the intense afternoon rays.

## GROWING SEASON

2019 was a cooler vintage which allowed for even ripening and flavor development. This lent to great acidity and fresh fruit aromas. The consistent temperate conditions allowed for an elegant style of grape maturation.

## 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 and open top fermenters with a combination of pumpovers, rack & returns (délestage), and punchdowns to control extraction and flavors. After fermentation, the wine was racked to 76% new French and American Oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was barrel aged for 20 months.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills  
Blend: 95% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Alcohol: 14.5%  
T.A: 0.52 g/100 ml  
pH: 3.93

## ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2019:

*Sip's 11th Annual Best of the Northwest Wine Awards - Platinum*  
*2023 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition - Gold*