



## 1 9 9 8 R E D T A B L E W I N E C O L U M B I A V A L L E Y

### VINEYARDS

Grown in the Columbia Valley in south central Washington State.

### THE BLEND

67% Cabernet Sauvignon  
29% Merlot  
4% Syrah

### VINTAGE

Near perfect growing conditions in 1998 produced rich, concentrated grapes brimming with ripe varietal character. Spring skies were clear and temperatures moderate; the summer months were warmer than usual resulting in smaller grapes and fewer berries per cluster. Then in late August, temperatures cooled just enough to slow ripening and compound flavors and concentration.

### VINIFICATION

Grapes were gently crushed, fermented with D-25 and Prise de Mousse yeasts and pumped over twice daily for an average of ten days. At dryness, the wine went through an extended maceration of about two weeks to increase extract. Using gravity, the wine was racked into 80% new, 20% one-year-old French oak barrels and racked periodically throughout barrel aging for a total of 22 months. Many flights of wine were tasted before Antinori's and Chateau Ste. Michelle's winemaking team

settled on a blend that ultimately represented less than 5% of the wine made specifically for Col Solare.

Alcohol: 13.5%

Total acidity: 0.75

pH: 3.55

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

“Ripe plum and blackberry aromas meld with a hint of toasty vanilla. Blackberry flavors complemented by black cherry and cassis provide for a rich, concentrated impression, and a hint of spicy anise enhances the sweet finish. This is a wine of exceptional balance and depth that should continue to improve in the bottle for years to come.”

### VINTNERS

Col Solare is a winemaking partnership between Tuscany's Marchesi Antinori and Washington state's Chateau Ste. Michelle that began in the vineyards of the Columbia Valley with Piero Antinori's on-going attraction to unique viticultural regions. In 1992, Piero made his first trip to the Columbia Valley. Impressed by the quality and diversity of Washington wines, a friendship with Chateau Ste. Michelle grew, and over time the two vintners began musing about a partnership that would challenge them to step out of their own proven perspective to achieve something new. The idea took hold, and Col Solare was born with the 1995 vintage.

