



## 2003 COL SOLARE

**THE BLEND** 80% CABERNET SAUVIGNON | 10% MERLOT  
5% CABERNET FRANC | 5% PETIT VERDOT

**VINTAGE** The 2003 growing season began with a typical bud break in early April. Bloom followed in early June. Warm, dry weather conditions during this phase (the start of fruit maturation) contributed to the uniformity of berry maturation at the end of the season. High heat accumulation during late summer created excellent ripening conditions. Very modest precipitation in August and September cooled the vineyards and slowed down the ripening process. At harvest, vineyards across the Columbia Valley had excellent physiological maturity and flavor development across varieties. The 2003 vintage marks one of the best growing seasons in history, especially for red varieties.

**VINIFICATION** Grapes were gently crushed, and lots fermented separately on the skins for an average of seven to ten days. During this time, a twice-daily pump over regime infused the fermenting juice with flavor, soft tannins and color. The wine was pressed from the skins into 60% French and 40% American oak, with 100% new oak barrels. Racking occurred during the 26-months aging, and winemakers Doug Gore and Renzo Cotarella tasted through the best wine lots to create the final blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Egg white fining occurred just before bottling.

### TECHNICAL DATA

APPELLATION: COLUMBIA VALLEY

ALCOHOL: 14.1%

TOTAL ACIDITY: 0.53 GMS/100ML

PH: 3.69

CASE PRODUCTION: 946



**WINEMAKERS' NOTES** Aromas of dark chocolate, cherry and currant are joined by hints of vanilla and clove. The aromatics carry through the rich and balanced palate. This is a complex wine that culminates in a long and silky finish.

**VINTERS** Col Solare is the partnership between two influential wine producers who are recognized leaders in their respective regions: Tuscany's Marchesi Antinori and Washington State's Chateau Ste. Michelle. Col Solare, Italian for 'shining hill,' realizes the partners mission to unite two unique viticultural and winemaking cultures to produce an ultra-luxury Cabernet Sauvignon-based wine.

**COL SOLARE™** RED MOUNTAIN WINERY AND ESTATE VINEYARD

PH: 509.588.6806 | 50207 ANTINORI ROAD, BENTON CITY, WA 99320 | COLSOLARE.COM