

# Chateau Ste Michelle

## COLD CREEK VINEYARD 2011 MERLOT

### TASTING NOTES

*“Cold Creek’s 40-year-old vines deliver a big, concentrated Merlot. This wine delivers black fruit flavors with layers of complexity. This is our most intense Merlot with great ageability.”*

*Bob Bertheau*

Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

### VINTAGE

- Cool temperatures during spring delayed bud break and bloom by three to four weeks.
- Consistently warm summer temperatures lengthened the ripening period, resulting in harvest starting three weeks later than normal.
- Without the growing season’s typical temperature spikes that surpass 100° F, grapes ripened evenly with the required sugar levels and ideal physiological maturity.

### VINEYARDS

- Planted in 1972, Cold Creek Vineyard is one of Washington’s oldest and most acclaimed vineyards.
- Located 38 miles east of Yakima, Washington; south of the Columbia River and Wahluke Slope.
- Low yielding old vines produce small clusters and small berries, resulting in intense varietal flavors and deep color.
- Cold Creek Vineyard enjoys one of the longest and warmest growing seasons in the Columbia Valley.
- Cold Creek vineyard is LIVE and Salmon Safe certified.

### WINEMAKING

- Grapes were sorted with a state-of-the art receiving and MOG (materials other than grapes) separation system that transfers fruit to the fermenters in a more gentle and pure method, allowing for greater varietal expression and softer mouthfeel.
- Ripe grapes were destemmed and inoculated with various strains of yeast to maximize complexity.
- Daily gentle pumpovers were used to extract optimal flavor and color and minimize harsh tannins. The pumpovers can vary by block, tank and day of fermentation. Every ferment is tasted every day to evaluate the evolution of the tannins, modify extraction techniques and find the right moment to drain the wine off of its skins.
- Aged for 19 months in French and American oak, 100% new.



### TECHNICAL DATA

Total acidity	0.51g/100 ml
pH	3.87
Alcohol	14.9%
Blend	95% Cold Creek Merlot 5% Cold Creek Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases Produced	700

### FOOD PAIRINGS

Foods	Lamb, pasta, beef, fowl
Herbs	Basil, oregano, rosemary

