



Chateau Ste. Michelle

2012 ARTIST SERIES



## THE ART OF WINE

Launched with the 1993 vintage featuring renowned glass master Dale Chihuly, Chateau Ste. Michelle's Artist Series red wine celebrates the inspired collaboration between artisan winemaking and fine art. The 2012 vintage honors the 20th anniversary of the Artist Series collection by returning to its original inspiration with the art of Dale Chihuly. Chihuly selected his Cast Silver Venetian for this 20th anniversary label. This unique sculpture was created by Chihuly and then cast in silver at the Walla Walla Foundry in Washington State. Chihuly is known for his artwork and ambitious architectural installations around the world in museums, historic cities and gardens.

## VINTAGE

- 2012 was a return to the "classic" Washington vintage and a much welcomed change from the cooler 2010 and 2011 vintages.
- Warm and dry conditions from July through mid-October were ideal for fruit ripening, resulting in lush concentrated wines.

## VINEYARDS

- Fruit from our vineyard at Canoe Ridge Estate in the Horse Heaven Hills lent elegance, ripeness and soft tannins (72%).
- One of the oldest and warmest sites in Washington, our Cold Creek vineyard, also contributed to the blend adding weight and subtle sweetness (16%).
- Zephyr Ridge Vineyard (10%) provided complexity and fine grained tannins, while Indian Wells Vineyard (2%) added a depth of spice and deep dark fruit notes.

## WINEMAKING

- Fermented in small lots for maximum flexibility during blending.
- Daily gentle pumpovers during fermentation help extract optimal flavor and color.
- Each fermentation lot is tasted daily 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 22 months in French oak, 69% new.

## TECHNICAL DATA

Total acidity	0.54 g/100ml
pH	3.86
Alcohol	14.5%
Blend	70% Cabernet Sauvignon 26% Merlot 2% Cabernet Franc 2 % Malbec
Cases produced	4,300

## TASTING NOTES

*"The Artist Series is a very personal statement for me and what I enjoy most about Washington state red wines. It's the first wine I blend from all of our amazing vineyards in the Columbia Valley as I look for more restraint and complexity with an underlying ballast of Washington state power. The idyllic 2012 vintage in Washington gave me some of our best wines to date to craft this special 20th Artist Series bottling. Our vineyard at Canoe Ridge Estate lent signature elegance from the perfect combination of ripeness and soft tannins. Our Cold Creek vineyard contributed weight, dark fruit and subtle sweetness. This is a beautifully layered, ageable wine and my version of art in a bottle."*

*Bob Bertheau*  
BOB BERTHEAU, WINEMAKER