

Chateau Ste Michelle

2012 COLD CREEK RED

COLUMBIA VALLEY

LIMITED RELEASE



## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"IMAGINE IF A TALENT COMPETITION ONLY FEATURED WINNERS? THAT DESCRIBES CHOOSING WINES FROM COLD CREEK VINEYARD. LIKE AN ANNUAL RENDITION OF A CLASSIC BALLET, EACH VINTAGE BRINGS NEW STARS TO THE STAGE WHILE FILLING IN THE CORPS WITH A MOSAIC OF UP-AND-COMERS AND VETTED PERFORMERS. THIS BOTTLE'S FINAL ASSEMBLAGE IS A STIMULATING ENSEMBLE OF 41% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 38% MERLOT, 12% PETIT VERDOT, 7% SYRAH, AND 2% CABERNET FRANC."

  
KD ORGAN  
WINEMAKER

## VINTAGE

- 2012 was a return to the "classic" Washington vintage and a much welcomed change from the cooler 2010 and 2011 vintages.
- A warming trend began in late July and dry conditions through mid-October were ideal for fruit ripening.

## VINEYARDS

- Planted in 1973, the south-facing Cold Creek Vineyard is a warm, dry site with high heat accumulation.
- The low yielding old vines produce small clusters and small berries, resulting in intense varietal flavors and deep color.
- Cold Creek typically is one of the earliest vineyards in the region to ripen.
- Cold Creek vineyard is LIVE and Salmon Safe certified.

## WINEMAKING

- Grapes were sorted with a new grape receiving system and MOG (materials other than grapes) separation system that gets fruit to the fermenters in a more gentle and pure manner, allowing for better varietal expression and softer mouthfeel.
- 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 22 months in 39% new French oak, 22% new American oak, and 39% neutral oak.

## TECHNICAL DATA

TOTAL ACIDITY	0.55 G/100 ML
pH	3.81
BLEND	41% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 38% MERLOT, 12% PETIT VERDOT, 7% SYRAH, AND 2% CABERNET FRANC.
% ALCOHOL	14.5%
CASES PRODUCED	858