

# Chateau Ste Michelle

## CANOE RIDGE ESTATE 2013 MERLOT HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

### TASTING NOTES

*"The Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot is an elegant expression of Washington Merlot. It offers dark cherry fruit character and dusty tannins. This is a perfect match with Italian food."*

*Ray McKee*

Raymon McKee, Red Winemaker

### VINTAGE

- The 2013 growing season was warm and consistent throughout, perfect for the vines to ripen.
- Harvest started early in mid-August and extended into early November as fall brought cooler temperatures.
- The long, warm 2013 growing season resulted in beautifully ripe and balanced wines.

### VINEYARDS

- Planted in 1991, the vineyard at Canoe Ridge Estate lies on a steep south-facing wind-swept slope on the bank of the Columbia River in Washington's Horse Heaven Hills AVA.
- The site's proximity to the river protects it from temperature extremes, allowing uniform ripening and excellent color development.
- Canoe Ridge Estate vineyard is LIVE and Salmon Safe certified.

### WINE MAKING

- Grapes were sorted with a state-of-the art receiving and separation system that gently removes stems and leaves, allowing for more pure fruit expression.
- Daily gentle pumpovers during fermentation extract optimal flavor and color and minimize harsh tannins.
- 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 16 months in French and American oak, 60% new.



### TECHNICAL DATA

<i>Alcohol</i>	14.5%
<i>Total acidity</i>	0.51g/100 ml
<i>pH</i>	3.92
<i>Blend</i>	95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Cases Produced</i>	10,600

### FOOD PAIRINGS

<i>Foods</i>	lamb, pasta, beef, fowl
<i>Herbs</i>	basil, oregano, rosemary

