

Chateau Ste Michelle

COLD CREEK VINEYARD 2013 MERLOT COLUMBIA VALLEY

TASTING NOTES

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

Bob Bertheau

Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

VINTAGE

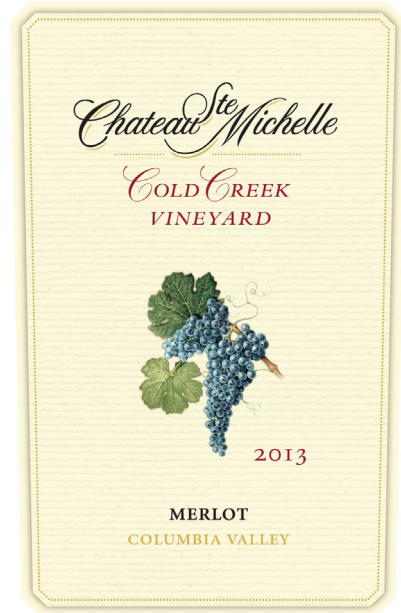
- The 2013 growing season was warm and consistent throughout, perfect for the vines to ripen.
- Harvest started early in mid-August and extended into early November as fall brought cooler temperatures.
- The long, warm 2013 growing season resulted in beautifully ripe and balanced wines.

VINEYARDS

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

WINEMAKING

- 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.
- Every 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 and American oak, 71% new.



TECHNICAL DATA

<i>Alcohol</i>	14.5%
<i>TA</i>	0.51 g/100 ml
<i>pH</i>	3.87
<i>Blend</i>	98% Cold Creek Merlot, 2% Cold Creek Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Cases Produced</i>	1,800

FOOD PAIRINGS

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

