

Chateau Ste Michelle

2014 AUSTRAL RED BLEND

COLUMBIA VALLEY

LIMITED RELEASE



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"MANY SURPRISES LIE IN WAIT IN THE 2014 AUSTRAL. THE CLASSIC COMBINATION OF GRENACHE, SYRAH, AND MOURVÈDRE IS JOINED BY CINSAUT, WHICH REFINES AND BRIGHTENS THE COMPLEX PALATE. PARTIALLY FERMENTED AND AGED IN CONCRETE TANKS, WEAVING THREADS OF PURE FRUIT THROUGHOUT IS SPIRALING DEPTH; FOCUSED TANNINS AND EXOTIC SPICE MAKE THIS RED WINE A TRUE SENSORY DELIGHT."


KD ORGAN
WINEMAKER

VINTAGE

- 2014 in Eastern Washington was one of the warmest seasons in decades.
- The ripening period in September cooled to more typical weather for the region. In October temperatures rose again to one of the warmest October months on record.
- Overall 2014 was an ideal growing season; ripening was excellent for all varieties in all locations.

VINEYARDS

- 69% of the fruit was sourced from the Horse Heaven Hills; an area that is characterized by gentle south facing slopes, sandy loam soil and a long growing season.
- 19% of the fruit was sourced from Cold Creek vineyard in the Columbia Valley AVA, one of the oldest vineyards in Washington.
- 11% of the fruit was sourced from the Wahluke Slope; a warm region known for ripe, jammy reds and complex Rhone based varietals.
- 1% of the fruit was sourced from the Yakima Valley, which yields fruit with bright acidity and elegant tannin structure.

WINEMAKING

- Ripe grapes were destemmed and sorted with a cutting-edge grape receiving and sorting system designed to gently remove any green material from the grapes, allowing for pure varietal expression and soft mouthfeel.
- A portion of the fruit was left on stems and fermented in concrete tanks with whole clusters intact, providing fine structure and added complexity.
- Daily gentle pumpovers were used to extract optimal flavor and color and minimize harsh tannins.
- Aged 18 months in a combination of 12% new and 88% neutral French barrels.

TECHNICAL DATA

TOTAL ACIDITY	0.51 G/100 ML
pH	3.79
BLEND	50% GRENACHE, 24% SYRAH, 17% MOURVEDRE, 9% CINSAUT
% ALCOHOL	14.8%
CASES PRODUCED	1,150