

Chateau Ste Michelle

CANOE RIDGE ESTATE

2015 MERLOT

HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

TASTING NOTES

"Our Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot consistently exhibits elegance, concentration, and fine tannins. The 2015 vintage – our warmest and earliest on record – added a layer of ripe and rich dark cherry fruit, with an opulent mouthfeel and structure. I love matching Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot with Italian dishes."



Raymon McKee, Red Winemaker

VINTAGE

- The 2015 vintage was one of the warmest growing seasons on record in Washington state.
- Warm temperatures continued through the spring and summer, moderating slightly into fall and extending an early harvest.
- Overall, 2015 saw optimal ripening across varieties and yielded outstanding wines throughout the region.

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.
- Chateau Ste. Michelle's Canoe Ridge Estate winery and vineyard are 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, 40% new.



TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol	14.5%
TA	0.50 g/100 ml
pH	3.95
Blend	91% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases Produced	4,800
FOOD PAIRINGS	
Foods	lamb, pasta, beef, fowl
Herbs	basil, oregano, rosemary

