

# Chateau Ste Michelle

## COLD CREEK VINEYARD

2015 MERLOT

COLUMBIA VALLEY

### TASTING NOTES

*"Cold Creek's 45-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, Winemaker

### VINTAGE

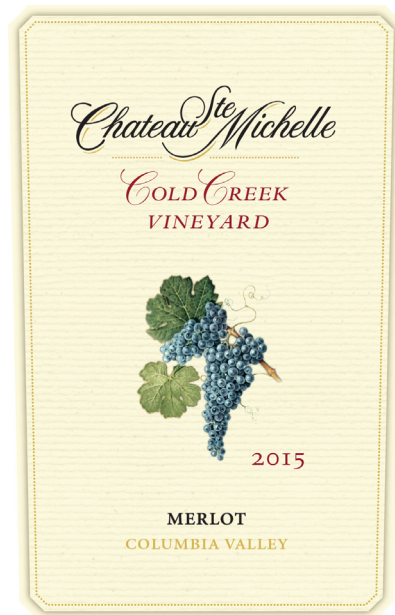
- The 2015 vintage was one of the warmest growing seasons on record in Washington state.
- Warm temperatures continued through the spring and summer, moderating slightly into fall and extending an early harvest.
- Overall, 2015 saw optimal ripening across varieties and yielded outstanding wines throughout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

### VINEYARDS

- Planted in 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.

### WINE MAKING

- Grapes are 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, 25% new.



### TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol	14.5%
TA	0.53 g/100 ml
pH	3.82
Blend	93% Cold Creek Merlot, 7% Cold Creek Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases Produced	2,000

### FOOD PAIRINGS

Foods	lamb, pasta, beef, fowl
Herbs	basil, oregano, rosemary

