



# Chateau Ste Michelle

## 2015 ETHOS RESERVE MERLOT

### TASTING NOTES

“My goal with our Ethos Reserve wines is to showcase the best of Washington for the varietal and the vintage. The Ethos Merlot offers blueberry fruit with wonderful complexity and rich layers. Our Merlots in Washington are so big and concentrated, we actually add a touch of Cabernet to soften the tannins!”

*Bob Bertheau*

Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

### VINTAGE

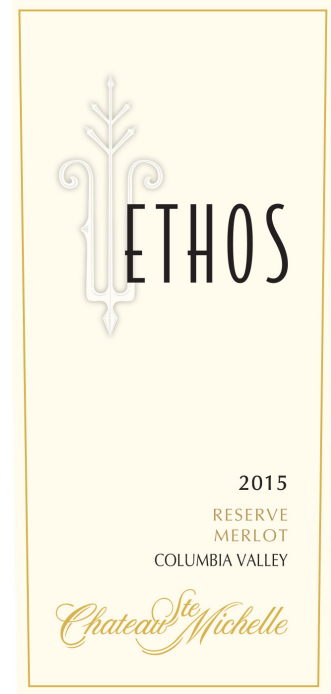
- The 2015 vintage was one of the warmest growing seasons on record in Washington state.
- Warm temperatures continued through the spring and summer, moderating slightly into fall and extending an early harvest.
- Overall, 2015 saw optimal ripening across varieties and yielded outstanding wines throughout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

### VINEYARDS

- A third of the fruit was sourced from our Cold Creek Vineyard.
- Planted in 1972, Cold Creek Vineyard is one of the oldest and warmest sites in Washington.
- Vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA, including our Canoe Ridge Estate, also contributed to the blend.

### 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.
- 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 22 months in 54% new French oak.



2015  
RESERVE  
MERLOT  
COLUMBIA VALLEY

*Chateau Ste Michelle*

### TECHNICAL DATA

TA	0.49 g/100 ml
pH	3.9
Alcohol	14.8%
Blend	95% Merlot 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Cases Produced 1,370

### FOOD PAIRINGS

**Foods:** *beef, grilled salmon, lamb, strongly flavored cheeses*

**Herbs:** *basil, oregano, rosemary, thyme*



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