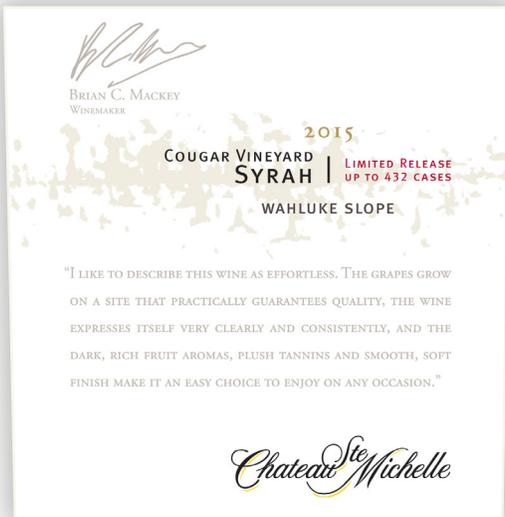


Chateau Ste Michelle

2015 COUGAR VINEYARD SYRAH

WAHLUKE SLOPE

LIMITED RELEASE



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"I LIKE TO DESCRIBE THIS WINE AS EFFORTLESS. THE GRAPES GROW ON A SITE THAT PRACTICALLY GUARANTEES QUALITY, THE WINE EXPRESSES ITSELF VERY CLEARLY AND CONSISTENTLY, AND THE DARK, RICH FRUIT AROMAS, PLUSH TANNINS AND SMOOTH, SOFT FINISH MAKE IT AN EASY CHOICE TO ENJOY ON ANY OCCASION."

BRIAN C. MACKEY
WINEMAKER

VINTAGE

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

VINEYARDS

- 98% of the fruit was sourced from Cougar Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope, a warm region known for ripe, jammy reds and complex Rhône based varietals. The remaining 2% was sourced from Upland Farms in the Yakima Valley.
- Our most northern growing area, the Wahluke Slope is bordered on both the west and the south by the Columbia River and to the north by the Saddle Mountains.
- Of all areas that seem to mimic the climate and soils of the Rhône Valley, our Wahluke Slope does a great job, producing Rhône varietal based wines of strength and complex character.

WINEMAKING

- Ripe grapes were destemmed and thoroughly sorted on a new grape receiving system that softens tannins and improves mouthfeel and varietal expression.
- Daily gentle pumpovers helped extract optimal flavor and color during fermentation and a variety of yeasts helped maximize complexity.
- Aged in 44% New American Oak and 56% Neutral American Oak for 18 months.

TECHNICAL DATA

TA	0.51 G/100 ML
pH	4.09
BLEND	100% SYRAH
% ALCOHOL	14.6%
CASES PRODUCED	432