

COLUMBIA·CREST *Reserve*

2016 RESERVE RED BLEND WALLA WALLA VALLEY

GROWING SEASON

- ▶ The 2016 vintage experienced the best of both worlds with a hot spring and early summer. A cooler than normal end of the ripening season allowed the wines to have ripeness, yet maintain freshness and elegance.
- ▶ The early dry and warm spring, combined with cooler temperatures in August and September, slowed down ripening and resulted in the longest harvest on record in Washington State (August 15–November 15).
- ▶ Overall, 2016 saw very favorable growing conditions, producing wines with nicely resolved tannins and maturity.

VINEYARDS

- ▶ With mesoclimates ranging from loess soils on gently sloping hillsides to gravel bottoms of ancient riverbeds, wines from the unique Walla Walla Valley AVA can be anything from fine-boned and elegant to broad and stout in structure.
- ▶ Great care is taken when caring for the vineyard. Every grape cluster is tended by hand, including crop thinning, leaf pulling and harvesting, as well as hand-burying of individual canes to protect them during the winter in southeastern Washington.

VINIFICATION

- ▶ For the majority of the blend, the different grapes varieties were harvested together at the same time then destemmed and crushed together to a small stainless steel tank for a 6-day fermentation on skins.
- ▶ An optical sorter was used to pick the best berries from the harvested lot based on size and shape.
- ▶ When the desired tannin structure was achieved, the wine was drained away from the skins and placed into 89% neutral and 11% new French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation.
- ▶ The wine aged for 19 months in barrel.

APPELLATION ▶ WALLA WALLA VALLEY

VINEYARDS ▶ FJELLENE, ERITAGE, KELLY

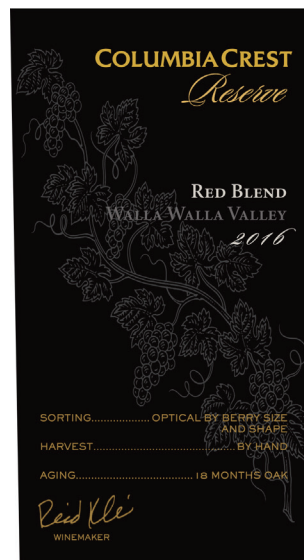
BLEND ▶ 37% MERLOT, 35% MALBEC,
21% CABERNET FRANC, 7% SYRAH

ALCOHOL ▶ 14.5%

TA ▶ 0.52 g/100ML

PH ▶ 3.82

CASES CRAFTED ▶ 612



TASTING NOTES

“This red blend brings out the best of each variety into a very expressive and interesting wine. It opens with aromas of cranberry compote, blackberry and cocoa which lead into hints of wet stone, savory herbs and black olives. This wine is delicate with a refined, smooth finish.”