

Chateau Ste Michelle

INDIAN WELLS

2016 MERLOT

TASTING NOTES

"The Indian Wells Merlot offers ripe berry fruit aromas and jammy flavors. This is a full-bodied style of warm climate Merlot with a round, supple finish. We added Wahluke Slope Syrah to enhance the mouthfeel and rich fruit character. I call this my pasta wine!"

Bob Bertheau

Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

VINTAGE

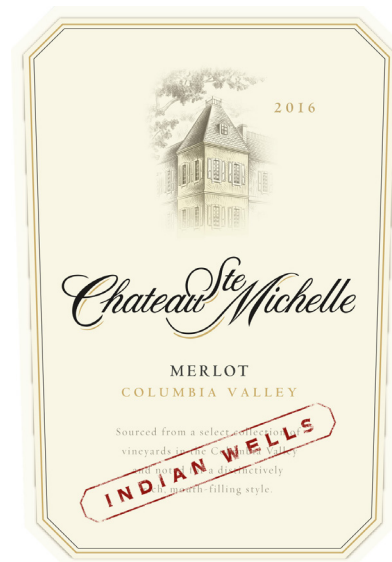
- The 2016 vintage experienced the best of both worlds with a hot spring and early summer, but also a cool fall season.
- Cooler temperatures in August and September, slowed down ripening and resulted in longer hang time for the grapes and the longest harvest on record in Washington State (August 15-November 15).
- Overall, 2016 saw very favorable growing conditions, producing wines with ripeness and elegance.

VINEYARDS

- This Merlot is sourced from Eastern Washington vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills and the Wahluke Slope, as well as our Cold Creek Vineyard.
- Vineyards were selected for producing high quality, ripe fruit, yielding wine with intense color and flavor.

WINEMAKING

- Grapes were destemmed and sorted using cutting edge technology to gently handle fruit and remove any green material, allowing for more pure, concentrated fruit expression.
- Gentle pumpovers were used to extract optimal flavor and color, and minimize harsh tannins.
- Aged in 51% new American and French oak barrels.



TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol	14.5%
TA	0.55 g/100 ml
pH	3.76
Blend	84% Merlot, 16% Syrah

FOOD PAIRINGS

Foods	hearty pastas, arroz con pollo, flank steak salad
Herbs	Basil, oregano

