



DRUMHELLER



2016 MERLOT | COLUMBIA VALLEY

“Notes of vanilla and allspice accentuate hints of hazelnut in this merlot, which is full of bright red cherry flavor, further outlined by hints of cola and toast. The tannins are subtle and velvety, with delightful weight on the mid-palate.”

— Christopher Herring, Winemaker

Vintage

- 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 fresh aromatics and vibrant acidity.

Vineyards

- Sourced primarily from the McKinley Springs, Alder Ridge and Beverly Vineyards. These vineyards have low-yielding vines which produce smaller clusters and berries, resulting in intense varietal flavors and deep color.
- The balance of the very warm daytime temperatures and cooler evenings concentrated aromatics and enhanced complexity.
- The sandy soils create the right amount of stress to grow a balanced canopy providing the perfect sun exposure and elegant fruit.

Winemaking

- The grapes were harvested early to achieve a higher level of natural acidity.
- A significant portion of whole berry grapes were destemmed and fermented with diverse yeast types to enhance complexity. Fermentation lasted 7-9 days.
- The wine was aged in neutral and once-filled French and American oak for 16 months, which was lightly toasted so that it doesn't overpower the grapes, and allows the fruit to show through.

Food Pairings

- Pairs well with well-seasoned and strong flavors such as roasted chicken, steak and savory seasoned lamb. Strong aromatic cheeses such as asiago and bleu also pair well.

Technical Data

- Alcohol: 14.5%
- TA: 0.53 g/mL
- pH: 3.74
- Blend: 90% Merlot,
5% Cabernet Franc,
5% Syrah
- Appellation: Columbia Valley