



THE NOD  
**MERLOT**

COLUMBIA VALLEY

2017

LIMITED RELEASE UP TO **403**  
TOTAL CASES

**BRIAN MACKEY** WINEMAKER

I set out to create an exciting Merlot and this one crafted from unique vineyards is bursting with aromas of earthy, brambly blackberry and ripe plums complimented by vanilla spice. Flavors of decadent juicy dark fruit also match perfectly with velvety yet weighty tannins and an endless finish.

TA: 0.59 g/100 mL

PH: 3.63

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

BLEND: 100% Merlot

CASE PRODUCTION:

403

COLUMBIA VALLEY

## 2017 "The Nod" Merlot

### VINTAGE NOTES

- The 2017 growing season was cooler and crop yields were significantly lower in comparison to the past two vintages.
- The lower temperatures delayed ripening and helped to retain fresh fruit aromatics and mouthwatering acidity.
- Despite cold winter conditions, 2017 gave us concentrated wines with classic Washington State character.

### VINEYARD NOTES

- 79% of the fruit came from the Elephant Mountain Vineyard in the Rattlesnake Hills AVA.
- 12% of the Merlot fruit came from the Dead Canyon Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA.
- 5% of the fruit was sourced from the Indian Wells Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope with the remaining 3% sourced from our Cold Creek Vineyard.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

- A cutting-edge sorting system gently removed any green material from the grapes, allowing for pure varietal expression and soft mouthfeel.
- Daily gentle pumpovers were used to extract optimal flavor and color and minimize harsh tannins.
- Aged in 75% new French oak, and 9% new American oak, for 21 months.

### TASTING NOTES

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