

Chateau Ste. Michelle  
ESTD 1957  
LIMITED RELEASE

THE NOD  
**MERLOT**

COLUMBIA VALLEY

2020

LIMITED RELEASE UP TO **573**  
TOTAL CASES

Lacey Steffey

LACEY STEFFEY WINEMAKER

"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth". —Henry David Thoreau. As a winemaker, there are no truer words. This Merlot highlights the best influences of the 2020 vintage: dark brambly berries, beautiful structure and nuanced oak.

TA: 0.59 g/100 mL

PH: 3.66

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

BLEND: 100% Merlot

CASE PRODUCTION:

573

COLUMBIA VALLEY

## 2020 "The Nod" Merlot

### VINTAGE NOTES

- Slightly warmer than average winter temperatures preceding the 2020 growing season resulted in little to no vine damage with normal bud break.
- Warm spring temperatures created excellent conditions for canopy growth and early fruit development.
- A mild summer with very few periods of excessive heat and cooler fall temperatures created ideal conditions for developing beautiful fruit flavors and aromas.

### VINEYARD NOTES

- 77% of the fruit came from the Dineen Vineyard in the Rattlesnake Hills AVA.
- 21% of the fruit was sourced from our Cold Creek Vineyard.
- 2% of the fruit was sourced from the Indian Wells Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope AVA.

### 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 French oak, 7% new, for 18 months.

### TASTING NOTES

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