



2016 READERS MERLOT

COLUMBIA VALLEY A.V.A.

Our 2016 Readers Merlot is a fantastic value. Dark red in color, the wine opens up with aromatics of black fruit, deep plum, spice, violets and black tea. Focused on the palate, the big fruit continues to shine through with flavors of blackberries and dark spices. The soft tannin profile carries the wine to a long finish. Enjoyable by itself or paired with a delicious pizza, this wine is one to enjoy as an everyday drinker.

VINTAGE

The 2016 vintage was a great vintage for Washington state and a superior one for the vineyards we source from. The 2016 vintage was earmarked with big clusters and yielded record-breaking color and suave tannins. This vintage had a volume and weight that matched our house style of rich and smooth age-worthy reds. Spring bud break and flowering were early, similar to 2015. Summer temperatures were hotter than average with many July and August days over 100°F. Verasion was early in August. Our old vine blocks, which are meticulously farmed, had healthy canopies that provided shade during the heat of the day. This helped to ensure a beautiful balance of acidity and sugar ripeness, while keeping fruit from sunburn. September was warm and dry with record breaking heat. We picked during the cool mornings to preserve the natural freshness of the vintage.

WINEMAKING

Sourced from the iconic vineyards of Dionysus, Conner-Lee and Elephant Mountain, the fruit was picked in the early morning, hand sorted and de-stemmed. Aged in open top fermenters and punched down daily to ensure good extraction, then aged in barrel for 18 months. Blended with 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Malbec, this Merlot has all the right stuff going on.

APPELLATIONS & VINEYARDS

Columbia Valley 95%	80% Conner Lee 15% Dionysus
Yakima Valley 5%	5% Elephant Mountain

FINAL BLEND

80% Merlot
15% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Malbec

AGING

Aged 18 months in 100% French oak

CASES PRODUCED 1,621 12-pack cases/750mL

TECHNICAL DATA Bottled: July 2018 • Alcohol: 14.8% by volume • pH: 3.85 • TA: 5.8g/L • RS: 1g/L

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