



# 2018 | READERS MERLOT COLUMBIA VALLEY A.V.A.

Our 2018 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 2018 vintage was an early spring with early vine growth and flowering occurred in early June. Summer temperatures promoted excellent quality ripening. Fortunately, grapes thrive in the heat. Verasion was early in August giving a long runway to develop dense color and richness from natural concentration on the vine. 2018 is both scrumptious now and age worthy for decades.

## 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.

## APPELLATIONS & VINEYARDS

Columbia Valley 80%	60% Conner Lee 20% Dionysus
Yakima Valley 20%	20% Elephant Mountain

## FINAL BLEND

80%	Merlot
12%	Cabernet Sauvignon
8%	Malbec

## AGING

Aged 18 months in  
100% French oak

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

**TECHNICAL DATA** Bottled: May 2020 • Alcohol: 14.5% by volume • pH: 3.85 • TA: 5.8g/L

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