

TENOR

2013 Merlot

We're not making Merlot for the faint of heart. Merlot is one of the world's greatest red varieties. It can be big and supple and complex, but coaxing all those notes out of the grape is a challenge, which is why it's often maligned or misunderstood as a soft, generic red. We want to showcase a wholly different side of Merlot. We want to show that even a 100% Merlot can be as big, as textured and as exciting to drink as a Cabernet and bring its own unique voice to the table.

Merlot loves Washington's climate. The unique sites and growing season enable us to bring out a little bit of everything that great Merlot is known for. We get enough heat and exposure to develop great ripeness and freshness, but our long season, cool nights and large diurnal shifts enable us to build great concentration and flavor intensity as well. We think of it as big and rich meets lean and racy.

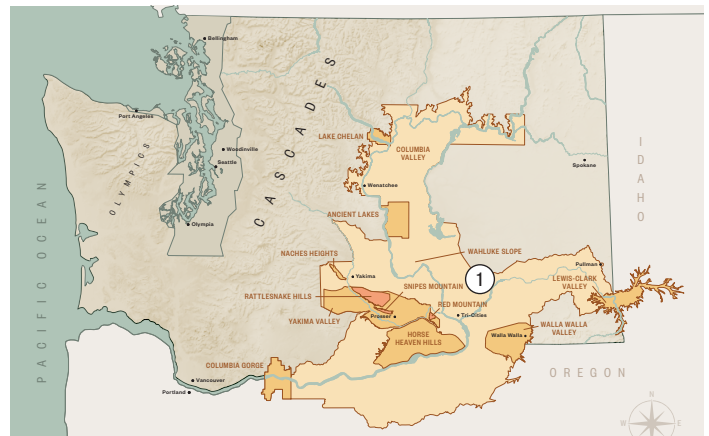
Tenor Merlot is full throttle and exciting, but still balanced and elegant. It presents with both power and suppleness, like a slap with a velvet glove. The Merlot is more structured than our Cabernet, which focuses on texture and thickness, but it's every bit as big as the Cabernet. We're careful to extract finer, drier, silkier tannins to ensure the wine is big but not overly tannic. Your first smell and your first sip will make it clear that there is a lot going on, and if you're caught off guard a bit, that's by design.

This is a Merlot that you can hold onto for 5, 6, or 10 years and still be thrilling to drink. Drink it from 3-8 years to get the most of the youthful jazzy fruit, but enjoy it long past that as well, as the fruit softens a bit and allows the secondary notes and seductive aromatics to play a more dominant role. Expect ripe fruit, black currant, raspberry, smoky strawberry, with a touch of herbs and potpourri. Tenor Merlot is exuberant, sultry, always exciting to drink, and anything but boring.

SELECT VINEYARDS

① Red Mountain AVA Hedges Family Estate

*"Sporting a deep ruby/purple color, the 2013 Columbia Valley Merlot...offers plenty of leafy herbs, black cherries, plums, tobacco and sweet oak as well as medium to full-bodied richness, a silky, seamless texture and impeccable overall balance. Drink this beauty anytime over the coming decade."
-91 points, Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate*



Labeled AVA Columbia Valley

Case Production 219

Varietal Breakdown 100% Merlot

Fermentation A combination of concrete and stainless steel

Aging 67% new and 33% used French oak for 18 months

Alcohol 15.1%

Retail \$58