



2004 Merlot
Columbia Valley

Vintage Notes:

Perhaps the most prominent event of the 2004 vintage weather occurred while the vines were still deep in slumber. On January 4th, the temperature dropped below zero for the first time since '96, causing yield reducing bud damage in most of our Walla Walla Valley merlot blocks. Fortunately, the vineyards we purchase from in the Columbia Valley fared better. Add to that the fact that Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine Estates was generous enough to allow us to “cherry-pick” some merlot from their Canoe Ridge Estate vineyard, so that we were not down in total production. The growing season itself was quite wonderful – as an early bud-break led to an extended growing season.

Winemaker notes:

The wines nose consists of bright floral aromatics, elderberry, red and black crème fruits and spicy yet subdued notes of balsam, pencil shavings, and pine. The palate is broad and fat with a soft, long, yet lively finish that brings back merlot lovers to this wine again and again. This wine has the stuffing to cellar for a decade, but when it is this good, why wait?

Vineyards in this Wine

Bachus-Dyonysis (Sagemoor Farms), Canoe Ridge Estate (CSM), and Wallula vineyards.

Aging Profile

Aged in new and second fill French and American oak barrels for 14 months.

Blending Detail

Merlot 97%, Cabernet Sauvignon 3%

Production

Twenty nine hundred cases.

Winery Retail

\$60

Estate Vineyards

Leonetti Cellar

