

1999 Merlot
Columbia Valley

Winemaker Tasting Notes

1999 is fast becoming remembered as the “miracle vintage”. The year began very cool and stayed that way through July, putting us well behind in ripening going into August, and finding us dramatically hand thinning clusters to ensure what grapes remained ripened fully. August saw the sun come out and the mercury rise, and it stayed that way well into October. What began as a poor vintage turned out to be a stellar one. Our 1999 Merlot is reflective of that quality. It is a very dark wine with a brooding nose of dust, mint, bay leaf, and black fruits. The wine has signature Leonetti integrated oak, and harmonious, high toned fruit. This wine is rich, with excellent acid balance typical of the vintage, and ends with a long finish.

Vineyards in this Wine

66% Walla Walla Valley Vineyards. Consisting of:
Seven Hills, Pepper Bridge Farms, Mill Creek Upland, and Leonetti Estate vineyard.
34% Columbia Valley Vineyards. Consisting of:
Bacchus Vineyard (Sagemoor Farms), and Conner-Lee Vineyards.

Blending Detail

Merlot 81%, Cabernet Franc 13%, and Cabernet Sauvignon 6%

Oak Aging Profile

This wine was aged in a mix of new French, Hungarian, American oak barrels for fifteen months.

Production of this Wine

Two thousand, three hundred, and forty cases.