



SEVEN HILLS

WINERY

2020 MERLOT

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

Within Washington State, with its Merlot-friendly climate and soils, the Walla Walla Valley AVA occupies a very special place, with just the right amount of warmth and a generous variety of soil types and elevations, coupled with a decades long tradition of growing world class Merlot. With 30 years of experience as Merlot specialists, working with established, dedicated winegrowers, we've sourced this bottling from a selection of the sweet spots of Merlot terroir, in deep silt-loam soils at mid-elevations around the AVA.



VITICULTURE & WINEMAKING

98% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc from select vineyards in Walla Walla Valley, focusing on deep silt-loam soils and mid-elevation. Open top fermented, aged in 30% new French, American, and Russian barrels (225L barrels) for 16 months. Vegan and Crossflow filtered.

VINTAGE

The 2020 growing season started in mid-April, with bloom beginning in the 3rd week of May, slightly ahead of average. June was abnormally wet, causing some shatter, resulting in a smaller crop yield than average. The summer months were consistently warm without many heat spikes giving the vines ideal conditions for ripening. September and October brought above-average temperatures providing a longer hangtime, which allowed Merlot to reach perfect ripeness. The smaller crop loads and warmer fall are a recipe for high-quality Merlot in Walla Walla Valley. We picked our first batch of Merlot on September 8th, with the final harvest of Merlot from the foothill picked on October 8th.

TASTING NOTES

Ruby in color with pronounced aromatics of red cherries, plums, hints of black peppercorns, star anise, and violets. Medium body with elegant texture supported by balanced acid and fine medium tannins providing flavors of red cherries, raspberries, hints of white pepper, and black tea leaves. 2020 Walla Walla Merlot is a go-to wine that will pair well with a portabella mushroom with gouda cheese, grilled pork chops, or even stand up to Thanksgiving feasts with all the fixings! Ready to drink now and over the next four years.

ANALYSIS

VARIETALS 98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

ALCOHOL 14.5% **PH** 3.79 **TA** 5. g/L

KEY FACTS

- Walla Walla Valley provides a great blend of soils and climate for Merlot.
- Producing Merlot for over 30 years.
- Great food wine.