

## AWAITING REVIEW Released February 2020

AVA **Columbia Valley, Washington** COMPOSITION 100% Merlot ALCOHOL 13.5% **CASES PRODUCED** 2000 **WINEMAKERS** Andrew Latta & Arthur O'Connor UPC 8 57034 00600 9 T.A. 5.0 g/L P.H. 3.69

## DISRUPTION

## **MERLOT 2016**

## MORE WINE, LESS EGO.

**WINE** The wine offers aromas of black plum with enticing notes of vanilla and spice. The fruit is intense with exceptional color and freshness. On the palate, it is velvety with excellent acidity and a long-lasting finish. Classic dark berry and plum flavors expected in Merlot persist with a slightly higher acidity than it's warmer Californian cousins. This Merlot shows a propensity for balance better than most. A slight hint of vanilla, with a solid backbone of structure, makes this a perfect reconnection with Washington State's unsung Merlot expressions. 25% New French Oak, the remaining 75% in neutral barrels.

**VINEYARDS** Half of the fruit comes from the Art Den Hoed vineyard in Yakima Valley AVA. Planted in 1978, it sits at an elevation of 1,350 feet above sea level. The soil here is rocky cobblestone from an uplifted riverbed from the pre-Missoula flood plains. This is one of the cooler vineyards in the area with excellent drainage. The second half is sourced from the Katherine Leone Vineyard in Wahluke Slope AVA. At only 650 feet in elevation, the soils are a mix of gravel and basalt. Planted in 2001, a thick layer of gravel covers a deep bedrock of basalt. This site is famous for its structured and mineral-driven fruit.

**VINTAGE** 2016 continued the trend of warm growing seasons in Washington marked by an early start. Bud break and bloom were significantly advanced from historical dates, with bloom occurring in some areas as early as the third week of May; a good two-plus weeks ahead of average. By the end of May, 2016 was easily on pace to surpass 2015 as the warmest vintage on record. To everyone's surprise, beginning in June, temperatures swung back toward normal. "As we all know weather is very unpredictable and we did not see the cool second half coming," said one winemaker. These cooler temperatures persisted throughout the majority of the summer.

**ART** All of our labels are from Artists who have worked with Urban Artworks, a non-profit youth empowerment project in Seattle. Their mission is to build community by connecting young people and emerging artists to communities, opportunities, new skills, accomplishment, and possibility. We proudly donate a dollar a case to Urban Artworks. Artists Victor Melendez and Shogo Ota. This pair have a lot in common. Victor from Mexico City, and now a permanent resident of Seattle, and Shogo, also in Seattle by way of Japan and Idaho. They both draw from their heritage and obvious graphic influence. Find out more on Instagram at @shogodzilla and @hellomelendez.

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