

VINEYARD COLLECTION SUBSTANCE

2016 Substance Vineyard Collection Northridge Merlot

The varietal that made me fall in love with Washington wine. Fresh black plum, sandalwood, dried herbs and smoked meat get this done on a smooth framework. All encompassing mouthfeel and with power to spare. A true individual.

Current & Past Scores

96 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck (formerly of Robert Parker's Wine Advocate)*

"In the running for the best Merlot in the state, the 2016 Merlot Northridge Vineyard Collection boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as a head-turning bouquet of black cherries, black currants, cedary spice, and dried flowers. Ripe, sexy, and full-bodied on the palate, it has a great mid-palate and sweet tannins. It's loaded with character and is another brilliant wine from this team."

93 Points, *James Suckling*

"Quite ethereal, leafy aromas with ripe red plums and raspberries that sit fresh and sweetly ripe on the nose. The palate has a very plush, alluringly fleshy feel with supple tannins that release smooth, plush fruit. Impressive. Drink across the next five years."

93 Points, *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*

"The 2016 Merlot Northridge Vineyard has a juicy core of fruit that is open-knit and accessible with spicy plum tones and elegant oak spices of vanilla, nutmeg and cinnamon. The wine is medium to full-bodied and rich on the palate, with a liveliness about the mid-palate that shows precision and a balanced structure. The finish is long, contemplative and a bit oaky, wearing the 50% new French oak well."

Vineyard

The vineyards we work with are farmed using the most up to date sustainable practices.

Northridge Vineyard: (100%) Loamy, fine sand over silica limestone, these ancient soils above the Missoula Flood plain are some of the best to grow fruit. This site is higher elevation and has cooler evenings, which creates later ripening, lots of minerality and concentration.

Vintage

The 2016 vintage started early and warm in Washington State. When summer arrived, the season saw cooler evenings that helped retain acidity, extended the growing and ripening period into September and October. This allowed the fruit to gain more complexity and deeper charm without sacrificing the acid or producing higher alcohol content. The vintage has created deeply rich and focused wines that we will be able to enjoy for a long time to come.

Blend

100% Merlot

Appellation

Wahluke Slope

Production

Yield: 2.6 tons per acre

100% whole berry fermentation

Yeast: native

45 days on skins

50% new French oak barriques

22 months barrel-aged on lees

Wine Analysis

5.8 g/L titratable acidity

3.68 pH

15.5% alcohol

UPC

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SUBSTANCE

BLeighton

POPUP