

SUBSTANCE

2017 SUBSTANCE VINEYARD COLLECTION NORTHRIDGE MERLOT

TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

Tremendous focus. Black cassis, molasses and sweet fruit undertone. Cocoa, anise, coriander layered for good measure. Give this wine a little time for a delicious reward.



VINTAGE NOTES

2017 was a fantastic year for making wine with a cool spring and a fair amount of rain. Washington had an ideal spring for healthy vines. The moderate temperatures during summer were perfect for small clusters and yet delayed veraison into the fall where we had a consistent ripening season that allowed us to hang the fruit for perfect tannin and flavor without losing acidity or acquiring too much alcohol. Overall it was a vintage to remember.

CURRENT & PAST SCORES

94 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

“Coming from a site on the Wahluke Slope, the 2017 Merlot Northridge Vineyard is also medium to full-bodied and concentrated yet has a touch more oomph and density than the Stoneridge release. Redcurrants, tobacco, cigar, and toasted spice notes all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, richly textured, balanced Merlot. It too will keep for at least 5-7 years.”

93 Points, *James Suckling*

“Plenty of floral and spice notes with walnut husk and coffee. Medium-to full-bodied, layered and beautiful. Real merlot. Hints of fresh herbs at the end, as well as green olives. Drink now.”

WINEMAKING

Varietal Breakdown: 100% Merlot

Appellation: Wahluke Slope

Vineyard(s): Northridge Vineyard (100%)

Production: 2.5 tons per acre | Native yeast | 100% whole berry fermentation | 41 days on skins | 47% new French oak barriques | 22 months barrel-aged on lees

Wine Analysis: 5.3 g/L titratable acidity | 3.96 pH | 15.0% alcohol | No residual sugar

UPC: 184745003509



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