

SUBSTANCE

SUBSTANCE VINEYARD COLLECTION NORTHRIDGE MERLOT 2018

TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

What a beautiful nose. Black cherry, black cassis, and cut tobacco is just the invitation. A richness comes into play, resting on a blanket of wet earth, gravel, fresh thyme, and maple sap. The wine continues to unfold itself with a long, lingering finish.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2018 vintage was incredible! This outstanding vintage began mild followed by a long and dry ripening season in the fall. This enabled us to hang the fruit to reach optimal ripeness without losing acidity or increasing sugars. The wines from 2018 are exceptional in many ways, from the great expression of the whites to the beautiful refinement and complexity of the reds. Enjoy!

CURRENT & PAST SCORES

94 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

“... healthy ruby/purple hue (it’s almost opaque) to go with a full-bodied, round, lush style carrying ample red and black cherry fruits, notes of tobacco leaf, earth, and graphite, ripe tannins, and a great finish. I love its mid-palate, and this is one rich, sexy, concentrated Merlot that can be enjoyed any time over the coming 10-12 years, if not longer.”

93 Points, *James Suckling*

“Rich aromas of blackberry, plum, chocolate orange, tar and tobacco. It’s full-bodied with firm, powdery tannins. Rich, deep and concentrated, yet fresh. Flavorful, chocolatey finish. Drink or hold.”

92 Points, *Vinous–Owen Bargreen*

“... offers a soft mouthfeel and silky tannins, while layers of milk chocolate, black cherry cordial and Chinese black tea flavors combine nicely with beautiful length.”

91 Points, *Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate–Anthony Mueller*

“... firm with a rocky core before showing aromas of black cherry and dusty plum skin that sway with rocky and oak-inflected essences. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is chewy with a firm tannic edge...”

VINEYARD

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. A hidden gem!

WINEMAKING

Varietal Breakdown: 100% Merlot

Appellation: Wahluke Slope

Production: 2.6 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole berry fermentation, 49 days on skins | 22 months barrel-aged on lees in 50% new French oak barriques | 827 (half) cases

Wine Analysis: 5.1 g/L titratable acidity, 3.68 pH, 15% alcohol, no residual sugar

UPC: 184745003509

