

SUBSTANCE

SUBSTANCE VINEYARD COLLECTION STONERIDGE MERLOT 2018

TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

Cedar, tar, and pipe tobacco fill the nose, giving way to a focused palate that lays out black raspberry and forest floor. In a silky persistence of great complexity, this wine leaves plenty to the imagination for the drinker to discover.

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 SCORES

93 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

"...ripe cherry, mulberry, and currant-like fruits as well as spice, beef broth, and dried herb notes... Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has a soft, plush texture, terrific mid-palate depth (which can be lacking in a number of Merlots), sweet tannins, and a great finish. Drink bottles any time over the coming decade."

93 Points, *Vinous—Owen Bargreen*

"Stony and savory aromatically ... plenty of black cherry, tilled soil and wet stone character on the palate. Great to consume now, this Merlot will provide drinking enjoyment for another decade."

92 Points, *James Suckling*

"A full-bodied, plush red with aromas of plums, cherries, vanilla, rust and hazelnut. Polished and spiced with a full, creamy palate and fine-grained tannins. Flavorful finish. Drink or hold."

90+ Points, *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate—Anthony Mueller*

"...starts with a plummy and rocky essence with hints of sage before offering gobs of fruits with a ripe frame of oak and bright cherry skin essence. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is clean and correct with a lush and focused palate with a petrichor note and ends with a long-lingering and still-tight finish."

VINEYARD

Stoneridge Vineyard (100%)

The vineyard has an alluvial fan gravel bed and rests above the flood plain of the Columbia River. Under the topsoil is a layer of caliche and basalt 6-12" deep, creating a calcium and iron rich media that forces roots to struggle. The fruit grown is thick skinned and produces nearly black juice and robust yet supple tannins, adding to the aging potential of the wines.

WINEMAKING

Varietal Breakdown: 100% Merlot

Appellation: Royal Slope

Production: 2.6 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole berry fermentation, 48 days on skins | 22 months barrel-aged on lees in 55% new French oak barriques | 816 (half) cases

Wine Analysis: 5.2 g/L titratable acidity, 3.95 pH, 14.5% alcohol, no residual sugar

UPC: 184745003400

