



# 2019 K EL JEFE TEMPRANILLO

## TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

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Intense and expressive with a ton of grit. Aromas of grilled cherries, black plum, dark chocolate, pipe tobacco and smoked paprika. The palate continues with amazing depth and length, exploding with tarragon, blueberry, wet slate and a hint of clove. It's hard to hide the excitement for such a stunner!

## VINTAGE NOTES

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The 2019 vintage was on the cooler side as it started slow with later-than-usual bud break and continued on to be fairly moderate throughout the year. Some vineyards had issues with an October freeze a bit earlier than usual, but our high-elevation vineyards have great air drainage which allows us to extend the growing season late into October without freeze. This yielded fantastic ripening and some awesome wines with incredible balance and character. Overall, we are excited about the wine produced in 2019, which has brought us more finesse, incredible flavors and lovely balance.

## CURRENT & PAST SCORES

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### 93 Points, *James Suckling*

"Black cherry, red licorice, colored flowers and nutmeg on the nose. Full-bodied with sparkling acidity and drive. Tight tannins. Lots of ground spice and pepper accenting the ripe and sweet red fruit. Dynamic and exciting on the palate. Best after 2024."

### 93 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

"Lots of red fruits, leather, loamy earth, and dried herb notes all emerge from the 2019 Tempranillo El Jefe, a medium-bodied, elegant, and seamless expression of this variety. Coming all from the Stoneridge Vineyard on the Royal Slope and aged in 50% new French oak, it's balanced, has ripe tannins, and tons of charm and character."

### 93 Points, *Vinous-Owen Bargreen* (v2018)

"...Stony and flinty undertones combine with beautiful freshness and finesse on the palate as layers of huckleberry, exotic spices, tilled soils and Earl Grey tea all nicely align..."

## VINEYARD

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### 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

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**Varietal Breakdown:** 100% Tempranillo

**Appellation:** Royal Slope

**Production:** 2.7 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole berry fermentation, 40 days on skins in French oak tanks | 22 months barrel-aged on lees in 50% new French oak barriques | 445 cases produced

**Wine Analysis:** 5.5 g/L titratable acidity, 3.85 pH, 14% alcohol, no residual sugar

**UPC:** 184745300059

