

# SUBSTANCE

## SUBSTANCE VINEYARD COLLECTION STONERIDGE MERLOT 2019

### TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

Classic... Raspberry, fresh tobacco, tar, licorice. Vivacious and generous with firm, luscious tannins. Blueberry, violets, and espresso. Old School Merlot. Charming!

### VINTAGE NOTES

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

#### 93 Points, *James Suckling*

“Fresh red cherry, white pepper and rosemary on the nose. Full-bodied with taught tannins. Very good acidity brightens and drives the palate of red fruit and herbs. Very saturated and colorful palate. Really enjoyable. Best after 2024.”

#### 93 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

“Lots of ripe black cherries, spices, new leather, and dried herb notes define the 2019 Merlot Stoneridge Vineyard, a medium to full-bodied, fresh, lively, pure Merlot that has good mid-palate depth, supple tannins, and a great finish. Coming from a vineyard on the Royal Slope and brought up in 50% new barrels, this is another impeccably made, balanced, classic wine from this team that readers will love. I’d drink bottles over the coming decade.”

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

“Stony and savory aromatically, the 2018 Merlot Vineyard Collection Stoneridge Vineyard offers 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.”

### VINEYARD

#### Stoneridge Vineyard (100%)

Alluvial fan gravel bed, the site 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.

### WINEMAKING

**Varietal Breakdown:** 100% Merlot

**Appellation:** Royal Slope

**Production:** 2.5 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole berry fermentation, 54 days on skins | 50% new French oak barriques, 22 months barrel-aged on lees | 816 (6-bottle) cases

**Wine Analysis:** 4.9 g/L titratable acidity, 3.82 pH, 14% alcohol, no residual sugar

**UPC:** 184745003400

