

Matthews

2021 COLUMBIA VALLEY CUVÉE



The 2021 Matthews Columbia Valley Cuvée is comprised of several small vineyards, namely Conner Lee vineyard, as well as key sites in the White Bluffs and Royal Slope AVAs. This wine truly represents the broad flavor and aromatic expressions of a merlot-dominant blend from the diverse terroirs of Washington State. The new winemaking team worked with our vineyard managers to update our viticultural practices, reducing yields (on average) by 30% for each site. These restricted yields created small, concentrated berries. Further vineyard dedication meant we were able to harvest between 3-6 weeks later than previous vintages. This allowed each site to fully develop the proper ripeness and flavor profile we were looking for.

The fruit was hand-harvested in the early mornings between September and October. Upon arriving at the winery, the fruit was hand-sorted and destemmed before going into stainless steel tanks, spending 30+ days on skins for extended maceration.

The wine was cellared for 19 months in new French oak (40%) and used French oak (60%). 59 barrels were selected and carefully blended, producing only 1,461 cases.

10 separate clones were included in the final blend (Merlot: 2, 3, 6, 15, 18, 181 Cabernet Franc: 1, 214, 327 Malbec: 4).

“A handsome blend, structured and polished, with expressive black cherry flavors accented by tarragon, mocha espresso and toasty spices that sail toward refined tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Drink now through 2031.”

93 PTS
TIM FISH, WINE SPECTATOR, WINESPECTATOR.COM

“This Merlot-based blend is a part of the Matthews tradition. Wildly fruity aromatics with whole berries, destemmed aromas driven by red berries, mountain blueberries, and a touch of green peppercorn and mocha dust. A streak of graphite underlines red berries, early season blackberries and a savoury herbal character that mingles complexity with fresh ripe fruits.”

93 PTS
CLIVE PURSEHOUSE, DECANTER

SELECT VINEYARDS

1	Columbia Valley AVA	Conner Lee
2	Horse Heaven Hills AVA	Wallula Gap
3	Red Mountain AVA	Red Mountain, Quintessence
4	Royal Slope AVA	Solaksen, Stillwater Creek, Stoneridge, Scarline
5	White Bluffs AVA	Bacchus, Dionysus

AVA	Columbia Valley
Varietals	65% Merlot, 27% Cab Franc, 8% Malbec
Fermentation	100% Stainless steel fermentation, spending 30+ days on skins for extended maceration
Aging	19 months in 40% new French oak, 60% used French oak
Alcohol	14.8%
Cases	1,461
Best Between	Now-2035
Retail	\$55

