

# Matthews

## 2022 RESERVE MERLOT



The 2022 Matthews Reserve Merlot is comprised of several vineyard parcels within the greater Columbia Valley. Key sites are from Royal Slope (Solaksen), Red Mountain (Red Mountain Vineyard, Two of Us vineyard) Horse Heaven Hills (Spice Cabinet Vineyard), and Conner Lee Vineyard in the Columbia Valley, allowing this wine to truly represent the broad flavor and aromatic expression of Merlot from the diverse terroir of the Columbia Valley AVA.

The winemaking team worked with our vineyard managers to restrict yields, creating small, concentrated berries. Cool fall nights preserved freshness in the wine while continuing to develop flavor. Hand-harvesting took place in the early mornings in mid-October, and lasted into early November (a record for us).

At the winery, the fruit was destemmed and berry-sorted. Prior to fermentation, nearly 30% of volume was saigné from tank to ensure maximum concentration across all varietals. Fermentations were kept even throughout primary, lasting an average of 14-17 days. Afterward, the wine spent an extra 2-3 weeks in tank for extended maceration before being barreled down into 100% new French oak (Darnajou, Taransaud, Sylvain, Quintessence). The wine was cellared for 21 months with 38 barrels selected and carefully blended, resulting in only 983 cases. The wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered to preserve purity, vibrancy, and intensity.

The following clones were included in the final wine: Merlot 3, 181, 15, Cabernet Sauvignon: 2, 4, 191, 337, 8, and Cabernet Franc 1, 214, 327

*“...the 2022 Merlot Reserve is pretty and aromatic in gravel minerality and crème de cassis. Its thick tannin profile is softened by classic elements of dried herb, iron, pencil, and mocha, with plenty of full-bodied power, stuffing, and structure.”*

97 POINTS, VIRGINIE BOONE, JEBDUNNUCK.COM

*“The entry is bold and richly layered dense blueberry compote and baked plum notes glide across a frame of velvety tannins and energized acidity. As it evolves, undertones of tar, pencil lead, and cocoa dust lend structure and complexity to the wine’s generous fruit core. The oak is seamlessly integrated, adding polish without overshadowing the wine’s innate intensity. A long, expansive finish hums with dried herbs, blackcurrant paste, and a faint mineral trace that echoes with persistence. This is a commanding, sculpted Merlot that speaks to both power and finesse, promising a long, graceful evolution. Highly recommended.”*

96 POINTS, JEREMY YOUNG, INTERNATIONAL WINE REPORT

### SELECT VINEYARDS

Columbia Valley AVA	Conner Lee
Horse Heaven Hills AVA	Eagle & Plow, Cavalie, Wallula Gap
Red Mountain AVA	Red Mountain Vineyard
Royal Slope AVA	Solaksen, Scarline

AVA	Columbia Valley
Varietals	79% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon
Fermentation	Fermented for 12 days in 100% stainless steel, with 30+ days of extended maceration
Aging	21 Months in 100% new French oak
Alcohol	14.8%
Cases	983
Best Between	Now – 2034
Retail	\$135

