

# Matthews

## 2021 COLUMBIA VALLEY CLARET



The 2021 Matthews Columbia Valley Claret is comprised of several small vineyard parcels within the greater Columbia Valley, with key vineyard sites in Horse Heaven Hills, Red Mountain, and Royal Slope AVA's as well as the famed Conner Lee vineyard. This wine truly represents the broad flavor and aromatic expressions of Cabernet Sauvignon 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.

Each vineyard was hand-harvested in the early mornings between late September & early October, cultivating on October 28th for our last pick. Upon arriving at the winery, each vineyard parcel was hand-sorted, de-stemmed, and berry-sorted. The grapes were placed in tank and cold soaked for 2 days, before undergoing a 14-day fermentation and an additional 14 days of extended maceration, resulting in 32+ days on skins for maximum extraction and integrated tannins. In the spring of 2022, we selected 201 barrels to be carefully selected and blended. The wine was bottled in June, producing only 5083 cases.

Twenty-two separate clones were included in the final blend (Cabernet Sauvignon: 2, 4, 6, 8, 15, 21, 31, 169, 191, 337, 338 Merlot: 2, 3, 6, 15, 18, 181 Cabernet Franc: 1, 214, 327 Malbec: 4 Petit Verdot: 1).

*"...the 2021 Claret opens with a broad, deep and juicy profile. It marks a monumental shift in the house style, showcasing a step in the right direction for quality-focused wine crafted with specific intentions. This wine is big and juicy, with a generous and well-rounded character that is not lacking in any aspect. The Claret is fresh and complex, unfolding fruit, oak and spice layers. It features fine-grained tannins and succulent acidity, creating a brilliant and flavorful finish that has me craving food. Bravo... The 2021 vintage marks a pivotal point for the Matthews brand"*

94 POINTS, ANTHONY MUELLER, ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

*"A Cabernet dominant blend of all five Bordeaux varietals. This wine's wild anise savoury notes drive forward the aromatics, followed by ripe fruits and a touch of frankincense. There is a linear element to the fruit that cuts through the ripe, fleshy palate. It comes together with notes of dried thyme, white peppercorn, and dollops of red and black berries. There is an undeniable ripeness with a crunchy fruit character that brings it home."*

94 POINTS, CLIVE PURSEHOUSE, DECANTER

1	Royal Slope AVA	Solaksen, Stillwater Creek, Stoneridge, Laura Lee, Scarline
2	Columbia Valley AVA	Conner Lee
3	Wahluke Slope AVA	Desert Wind
4	White Bluffs AVA	Bacchus, Dionysus
5	Red Mountain AVA	Red Mountain Vineyard, Quintessence, Tremasi
6	Horse Heaven Hills AVA	Phinny Hill, Milts, Wallula Gap
7	Walla Walla Valley AVA	Pheasant Run

AVA	Columbia Valley
Varietals	34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Cab Franc, 29% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot
Fermentation	100% Stainless steel fermentation, spending 30+ days on skins for extended maceration
Aging	19 months in 27% new French oak, 73% used French oak.
Alcohol	14.9%
Cases	5,083
Best Between	Now-2035
Retail	\$55

