

# Matthews

## 2021 RESERVE MERLOT



The 2021 Matthews Reserve Merlot is comprised of several vineyard parcels within the greater Columbia Valley. Key sites are from Conner Lee vineyard and Red Mountain AVA as well as Royal Slope AVA, allowing this wine to truly represent the broad flavor and aromatic expressions of Merlot from the diverse terroirs of Washington State.

The winemaking team worked with vineyard managers to restrict yields, creating small, concentrated berries. Cool fall nights preserved a sense of freshness in the wine while continuing flavor development. Hand-harvesting took place in the early mornings in October.

At the winery, the fruit was cluster sorted, destemmed and berry sorted. The wine spent 30+ days on skins for extended maceration before being barreled down into varying formats of 100% new French oak. The wine was cellared for 21 months with 16 barrels selected and carefully blended. The wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered to ensure the wine in bottle is pure, vibrant, and intense. The following clones were included in the final wine: Merlot 3, Cabernet Sauvignon 8, and Cabernet Franc 1, producing only 394 cases.

*“... A brooding dark purple core with a light red rim in the glass delivers a more elegant and polished tone over the tongue. Mountain blueberries, red cherries, mountain sage, vanilla, scorched herbs, and wet earth, with hints of tobacco leaf, jump on the nose and on the palate. Sweet, silky tannins, a rounded mouthfeel, and lemony acidity complete the wine. Highly recommended.”*

-96 POINTS, JEREMY YOUNG, INTERNATIONAL WINE REPORT

*“Aromatic, fresh and with a firm, sturdy backbone, the 2021 Merlot Reserve Columbia Valley...is well defined and juicy, with a touch of volatility—just enough to lift the nose—and reveals its youthful character. It boasts broad-shouldered freshness, a tannic edge and complex layers of oak and brown baking spices. The wine concludes with a spicy, oak-driven finish that will benefit from another year of aging in the bottle. The wine's depth and richness will remain food friendly until the end of the next decade.”*

-94+ POINTS, ANTHONY MUELLER, ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

### SELECT VINEYARDS

1	Royal Slope AVA	Solaksen
2	Columbia Valley AVA	Connor Lee
3	Red Mountain AVA	Red Mountain, Quintessence

AVA	Columbia Valley
Varietals	75% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc
Fermentation	Each parcel was hand-sorted from the vineyard, with gentle fermentation and extended maceration culminating over 30+ days
Aging	Cellared in 100% new French oak for 21 months
Alcohol	14.9%
Cases	394
Best Between	Now - 2040
Retail	\$185

