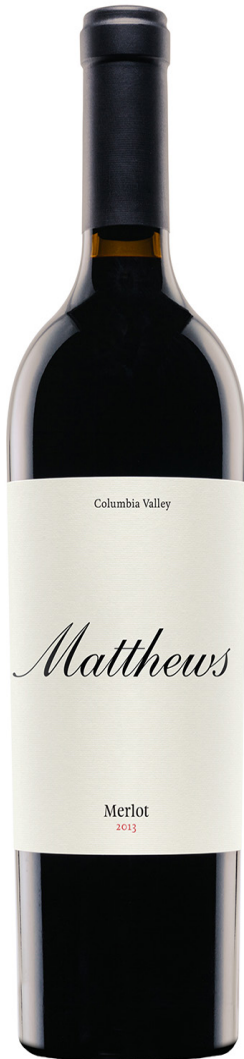


Matthews

2013 Merlot



This Bordeaux inspired blend is seductive, velvety and loaded with personality. In the Matthews style, it delivers a lot of power and concentration, but with more nuance than you might expect from new world blends. In Bordeaux, the Merlot-led right bank blends are revered for their nuance. This is truly one of the world's most classic blending styles, with each varietal providing the one small thing that the others are missing to create a remarkably balanced, complex and approachable wine.

The Matthews Merlot presents with smoky blue and black fruit—plum, blackberry, blueberry—with a resinous, almost leathery undertone. We love to bring out the darker, more brooding side of Merlot, and balance it with the touch of graphite, chocolate and green aromatics from the Cab Franc. This wine has understated tannins and a silky, sensuous texture. It's too easy to drink, but impossible not to think about. We set out to create a wine that delivers early drinkability, but will continue to show well for 12 years at least, and remain beautifully drinkable through 20 or more.

"Like with the Cabernet, the 2013 Merlot was reviewed last year under the Tenor 2:2 label. Incorporating 24% Cabernet Franc, it has a pretty complex bouquet of plum pit, blood orange, leafy herbs and mint to go with a charming, ripe, supple style on the palate. I love its silky, elegant texture, and while good now, it should benefit from a few years in bottle."

-91 points, Jeb Dunnock, Wine Advocate

SELECT VINEYARDS

- ① Red Mountain AVA Red Mountain Vineyard, Hedges Family Estate

AVA	Columbia Valley
Production	309 Cases
Blend	76% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc
Fermentation	Concrete and stainless steel
Aging	85% New, 15% used French oak for 18 months
Alcohol	15.1%
Retail	\$57

