

Matthews

2014 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.

This was fermented in 100% concrete tanks and aged in 70% new French oak for 21 months. Essentially in the Reserve program this blended Merlot is meant to be perfumed, with showy fruit but a restrained and elegant presence. I

love Merlots plump and fleshy nature, so we only used smaller amounts of Cab Franc and Cab Sauv to add complexity, spice and some structure to rein in the palate.

"A stunning perfume of strawberry puree, singed vanilla bean, black currant and plum skin. Hints of baking spices add complexity to this dense and penetrating wine. Swirling brings up darker fruits, wood spice and iron. The palate is fresh with thick fruit and perfectly integrated tannins. Ripe but beautifully restrained with a long and generous finish. A thrilling wine to enjoy in its youth; this one is worth cellaring."

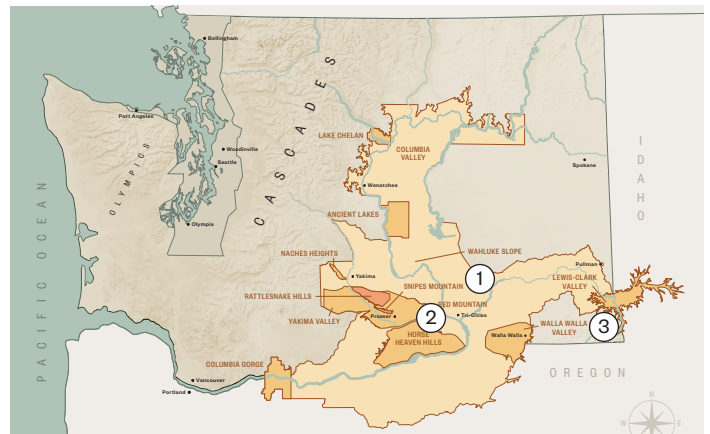
- ARYN MORELL, WINEMAKER

SELECT VINEYARDS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| ① Columbia Valley AVA | Dionysus Vineyard |
| ② Red Mountain AVA | Hedges Vineyard
Red Mountain Vineyard |
| ③ Walla Walla AVA | Pepperbridge Vineyard |

"Good dark red. Plum and cherry aromas are lifted by a note of wild herbs. Compellingly plush and generous in the mouth, offering a distinctly layered texture to its flavors of black raspberry, cigar box, milk chocolate and herbs. Already extremely appealing but I wouldn't describe it as soft. The long, palate-staining finish builds inexorably. A knockout chocolatey Merlot with outstanding breadth and finesse"

- 93 POINTS, STEPHEN TANZER, VINOUS



Production	345 Cases
Release Date	Spring 2017
Blend	83% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vinification	100% Concrete Tanks
Aging	21 Months in 70% New French Oak Barrels
Alcohol	15.3%
Retail	\$55