

# Chateau Ste Michelle

## 2018 ARTIST SERIES RED BLEND COLUMBIA VALLEY



### THE ART OF WINE

Chateau Ste. Michelle's Artist Series red wine celebrates the inspired collaboration between artisan winemaking and fine art. The 2018 vintage labels showcase artist, Robert Marchessault. Robert is a painter with a passion for trees, having planted over 7,000 of them on his land in Canada. Nurturing them over many years, his observations of the forces that shaped their growth influences his art. His trees are painted from memory, allowing for an ambiguity that makes each tree at once recognizable and unknown. "It is not possible to see them as static; rather, they respond to both the long term climatic forces and the immediate influences of weather." In this way, both the artist and vintner seek to intuitively understand nature's enigmatic impact on their respective creations.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

"The 2018 vintage gave us a perfect combination of heat for ripening in the summer and a gradual cool down during harvest that allowed proper ripeness in the ideal timeframe. This year's blend is a special combination of Canoe Ridge Estate (39%), Cold Creek (26%), Kelly (18%), and Dineen (17%) Vineyards. The combination of warmer and cooler sites is the exact expression I look for in the Artist Series. The cooler sites provide dark cherry fruit, a touch of herbs and delicate harmony. The warmer sites give ballast and depth to add concentration and aging potential. This wine plays the perfect role of 'Old World' styling with 'New World' structure."

Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

### VINTAGE

- 2018 was another stellar growing season and vintage in Washington.
- Warm spring temperatures followed by mild conditions throughout the growing season allowed for extended hang time and flavor development.
- Cooler temperatures at night in Eastern Washington helped maintain crisp natural acidity and full ripeness.

### VINEYARDS

- Our winemakers sourced the highest quality grapes from the following AVAs including Horse Heaven Hills (40%), Columbia Valley (26%), Walla Walla Valley – Oregon (18%) and Rattlesnake Hills (17%).
- This year's blend is a special combination of Canoe Ridge Estate Vineyard (39%), Cold Creek Vineyard (26%), Kelly (18%), and Dineen (17%) Vineyards.
- Warm, sunny days and cool evening temperatures create ideal conditions for intense aroma and flavor development in the ripening grapes.

### WINEMAKING

- Daily gentle pumpovers during fermentation help extract optimal flavor and color.
- Each fermentation lot is tasted daily to evaluate the evolution of the tannins, modify extraction techniques and find the right moment to drain the wine off its skins.
- Aged for 21 months in 16% new French oak, 4% new American oak and 80% neutral oak.

### TECHNICAL DATA

TA		0.55 /100mL
pH		3.75
Alcohol		14.8%
Blend		69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 2% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc

Cases Produced: 5,799 (750mL/6)