

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 unfined 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.

"The enchanting 2021 Reserve Merlot from Matthews merges 75% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 6% Cabernet Franc for a total of 21 months in 100% new French oak. 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. 394 cases made. Highly recommended. 2023-2036"

-96 POINTS, JEREMY YOUNG, INTERNATIONAL WINE REPORT

"The woodland-inspired 2021 Merlot Reserve wafts up with a blend of wild berries, rubbed sage and cedary spice. This is pure elegance - seamlessly silky and polished, with depths of dark red fruit underscored by saline minerals and a savory herbal thrust. This tapers off with a dark floral perfume and hints of steeped plum, leaving a saturation of fine tannins, while maintaining a lovely freshness. The 2021 needs time to come fully into focus, but I believe it will be worth the wait."

-94 POINTS, ERIC GUIDO, VINOUS

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

