

Matthews

2021 RESERVE CABERNET FRANC



The 2021 Matthews Reserve Cabernet Franc is comprised of several vineyard parcels within the greater Columbia Valley. Key sites are Red Mountain, Royal Slope, and White Bluffs AVAs, as well as Conner Lee vineyard. This wine truly represents the broad flavor and aromatic expressions of Bordeaux varietals 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 freshness in the wine while continuing flavor development. Hand-harvesting took place in the early mornings in October.

Once arriving in the winery, the fruit was cluster-sorted, de-stemmed, and berry-sorted. The grapes were placed in tank and cold soaked for two days, before a 14-day fermentation along with 14 extra days of extended maceration, making it a total of 32 days in tank for maximum extraction. The free run wine was barreled down into varying formats of 100% new French oak and cellared for 21 months. In the Spring of 2023, 20 carefully selected barrels were blended and in July 2023 bottled (unfined and unfiltered), producing only 503 cases.

Five separate clones were included in the final blend (Cabernet Franc: 1, 214, 327 Merlot: 3 Cabernet Sauvignon: 8).

“The 2021 Reserve Cabernet Franc from Matthews is cellared in 100% new French oak for 21 months and displays a brooding, deep, ruby-purple core with a light red rim. It’s a blend of 83% Cabernet Franc, 12% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, with alcohol checking in at 15.2%, even though you don’t notice it. Dark strawberries, black raspberries, crushed stones, green peppercorn, baking spice, and wet leaves aromas dominate the nose and the palate. Smooth but present tannins complement the excellent backbone and structure on the mid-palate. Highly recommended.”

-96 POINTS, JEREMY YOUNG, INTERNATIONAL WINE REPORT

“The 2021 Cabernet Franc Reserve is an understated wine with a smoldering blend of rich cherry sauce, dusty rose and hints of autumnal spice. Luxuriously soft and supple, this flows across the palate with ease, displaying floral-laced red fruits and peppery inner tones. Long and remarkably fresh, the 2021 finishes with a gently tannic grip.”

-94 POINTS, ERIC GUIDO, VINOUS

SELECT VINEYARDS

1	Royal Slope AVA	Solaksen, Stoneridge
2	Columbia Valley AVA	Conner Lee
3	White Bluffs AVA	Bacchus
4	Red Mountain AVA	Quintessence, Red Mountain, Angelas

AVA	Columbia Valley
Varietals	83% Cabernet Franc, 12% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
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	15.2 %
Cases	503
Best Between	Now – 2040
Retail	\$ 185

