



2022 MERLOT

Appellation

Walla Walla Valley

Vineyards

64% Schafer Estate

36% McQueen Estate

Blend Profile

92% Merlot

8% Cabernet Franc

Barrel/Aging Program

16 months in 60% new

French oak, and 2,000L
Stockinger oak ovals.

ABV

14.7%

Cases Produced

710

SRP

\$115

Winemaker Notes

- All estate grown.
- The lateness of this growing season, mixed with cooler temperatures, extended a normally early-ripening variety.
- Schafer Estate Vineyard is in the best location (maybe in the U.S.), for Merlot to be planted. This variety often goes unnoticed, but it truly flourishes when planted in optimal locations.
- Schafer Merlot produces tons of mid-palate richness, perfect ripeness without sacrificing natural acidity, and beautiful blue fruit.
- McQueen Estate Vineyard rounds out the palate with a more linear tannin profile from Cabernet Franc.
- The Cabernet Franc adds length to the wine to balance out the intense mid-palate structure of the Merlot. It also helps lift the nose a bit, adding hints of tobacco and sage brush.
- Deep ruby, aromas of plum and fresh blueberries, alongside of raspberry, freshly pulled espresso, hints of vanilla, and the slightest hint of orange.
- Rich, round on the palate, dense and silk-like tannins that have a glycerol length to the finish that is evocative and leaves you longing for more.

“What a beautifully balanced, smooth sipping Merlot.”

-95 points, Michael Alberty, Wine Enthusiast