90PTS & EDITORS' CHOICE

- Wine Enthusiast Magazine

SN

2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



2018 COLUMBIA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The Soldier is a salute, a wine dedicated to the many courageous people who are working the long hours, quietly carrying the heavy weight of duty with love and courage. Sourced from the Columbia Valley, The Soldier is an exceptional blend of fruit from esteemed sites in the Columbia Valley AVA, including the sub-AVAs of Walla Walla Valley and Red Mountain.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas are an appealing mix of black currant, blackberry, leather, bramble, plum, coffee, anise, clove, toast and dry flowers. Integrated and chewy tannins up front turn firm and dusty on the mid-palate, accentuated by flavors of plum, cassis, leather, espresso, clove, toast, graphite, toasted oak and sage. Balanced acidity gives The Soldier an integrated and structured finish.

WINEMAKING PROCESS

Grape clusters are destemmed and gently crushed. A small portion of whole berries are included in the must to soften tannins. The must is cold soaked for 48 hours with daily pump overs. Fermentation is in a stainless steel open-top tank with twice daily punch downs. Aged 24 months in French and American oak, 35% new.

VINTAGE NOTES

2018 was another warm vintage for Washington that was marked by warm and cool cycles with ideal weather during the harvest season. April was cool, delaying budbreak slightly. May was one of the warmest on record, followed by a cooler-than-average June. July and August temperatures were quite warm, on pace to make 2018 among the warmest vintages on record. Temperatures cooled considerably in September, creating ideal conditions for ripening. Harvest was long and drawn out, starting for sparkling wines in mid-August and ending in early November at some sites.

Vineyards: 26% Weinbau, 19% Seven Hills, 18% Quintessence, 6%
Heather Hill, 5% Alder Ridge, 5% Sonrisa, 4% Bacchus, 1% Les Collines, 16% other
Varietals: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 5% Tempranillo
AVA: Columbia Valley
Alcohol: 14.5%