

Mark Ryan

WINERY

LITTLE SISTER

Merlot | Columbia Valley | 2016

Winemaking Notes

The combination of two world class vineyards and an exceptional growing season provided us with the opportunity to produce a remarkable Merlot. The Merlot from Red Willow vineyard was planted in 1989 and 1993, in ancient soils that were above the Missoula flood plain. The soils consist of 16"-20" of gravel mixed with calcareous clay over volcanic pumice and are excellent at controlling the natural vigor of the vines. The Merlot from Phinny Hill was planted in 2007 in ancient cobble and Malga fine gravelly loam soils that provide excellent drainage and a diverse mineral composition. Both sites produce compact clusters with small berries leading to wonderfully rich and concentrated aromas and flavors. The wine was fermented in a combination of 1.5, 2 and 5 ton open top fermenters for 7-10 days. Every effort is made to treat the wine as gently as possible. The must is never put through pumps and gentle punch downs occur twice per day. The wine is lightly pressed to barrel, where it finishes primary and malolactic fermentation and is aged for 21 months in 44% new French oak. The wine was raked twice prior to being bottled on June 23rd, 2018.

Tasting Notes

Bright aromas of Bing cherry, strawberry, and chocolate mingle while the palate reveals structured flavors of soft tobacco, graphite, and bramble berries. The tannins are mouth-filling on the mid-palate and give the wine a well integrated, elegant texture, with a finish that is lengthy with spice and ripe cherry.

BLEND

100% Merlot

BARREL

44% New 22mm French Chateau Ferré Thin Stave

Aged for 21 months

PRODUCTION

215 cases

RELEASE

October 5, 2018

APPELLATION

Columbia Valley

VINEYARDS

Phinny Hill
Red Willow



Founded in 1999 by Mark Ryan McNeilly, **MARK RYAN WINERY** is a small winery located in Woodinville, Washington. Our goal is to produce handcrafted wines that represent the vineyard from which they come, the character of the varietal, and our style. From the vineyards to the winery, our uncompromising commitment to quality and our passion to produce the best wines possible, inspire us to make these wines for you.

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