

Mark Ryan

WINERY

LITTLE SISTER

Merlot | Columbia Valley | 2019

Winemaking Notes

The merlot for the 2019 Little Sister is a combination of two premium vineyards: Quintessence on Red Mountain and Red Willow in the upper Yakima Valley. The merlot from Quintessence was planted in 2011, on a south facing slope, in soils predominantly consisting of fractured basalt and gravel with a light dusting of fine Loess. The merlot from Red Willow was planted in 1993 on a steep westerly facing slope, in soils that combine 16"-20" of gravel mixed with calcareous clay over volcanic pumice. The 2019 vintage started off cool and remained relatively mild throughout the growing season. Budbreak, bloom and veraison all started later than any of the 6 previous vintages. Temperatures in September remained cool allowing for extended hang time and flavor development. Each block was hand harvested the third week in September. 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 76% new French oak.

Tasting Notes

Our 2019 Little Sister presents a deep purple hue for color and gives dense, dark fruits on the nose. Blackberry, and blueberry mingle with cedar and tobacco aromas, and hints of nutmeg. It's full-bodied and heavy, with velvety tannins in balance with structured acidity. The palate provides lush notes of black cherry, vanilla, and slight bramble with a long finish that will endure for years to come.

BLEND

96% Merlot
4% Petit Verdot

BARREL

76% 22mm French
Chateau Ferré Thin Stave
21 Months in Barrel

PRODUCTION

100 Cases

RELEASE

October 2021

APPELLATION

Columbia Valley

MATURITY WINDOW

2021-2031

VINEYARDS

Quintessence
Red Willow

PAST ACCOLADES

2018: 92 Jeb Dunnuck
2017: 93 Wine Enthusiast
2016: 94 Jeb Dunnuck
2015: 93 Jeb Dunnuck

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.



WOODINVILLE TASTING ROOM

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WALLA WALLA TASTING ROOM

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