

# WASHINGTON

SINCE *Hills* 1988



## 2016 MERLOT

WASHINGTON STATE

### TASTING NOTE

“This rich, ripe merlot opens with aromas of red cherry and vanilla bean followed by flavors of plum, blood orange zest, and fig. Perfumed floral notes persist through the long, smooth finish.”

–Hal Landvoigt, Winemaker

### VINTAGE BACKGROUND

The 2016 growing season started quickly with warm temperatures across Washington, encouraging vigorous vine development. By late June, temperatures cooled considerably, creating optimal growing conditions for fruit maturation. In late summer, rain came to the vineyard and helped ease vine stress, while the vineyard teams worked tirelessly to ensure the canopies and fruit clusters would produce top quality grapes. White varietals will express lush, tropical notes.

### VINEYARDS

*Wallula, Canyon Ranch, Skyfall*

Known for its many and varied microclimates (cool, warm, windy, hilly, flat), Columbia Valley is the umbrella AVA under which many of the state’s sub-AVAs fall. While it contains 99% of wine grapes grown in Washington State, 6,851 of its acres are unique to the Columbia Valley and don’t overlap another sub-AVA in the state.



### WINEMAKING

HARVESTED: Sep. – Oct. 2016

BLEND: 89% Merlot, 11% Syrah

AGING: 7 months, 100% French Oak  
Blocks, 20% New Barrel Equivalent

PH: 3.83 | TA: 5.29 g/l | ALC: 13.6%