

ROYAL SLOPE

MERLOT

2019

The Merlot vines growing at Stillwater Creek vineyard on the Royal Slope of the Columbia Valley are some of the best in the state. The vineyard is salmon-safe and sustainably farmed. The site is south facing on a steep slope with the highest spot on the property (1600 ft in elevation) planted to clone 3 Merlot.

In September of 2019, the Merlot was hand-picked, carefully destemmed and fermented in open-top bins with twice daily punchdowns. After ten days, when the fermentation was complete, we pressed off of the skins and barreled down into neutral French oak barrels for malolactic and aging. The Cabernet sauvignon was hand-picked in October of 2019 and similarly processed and barreled down into a once used Atelier French oak barrel and neutral wood. In June of 2021, the Cab and the Merlot were blended together before bottling without fining or filtration under TCA-free DIAM corks in glass bottles made in the USA.

TASTING NOTES

Roasted red pepper, plum and pomegranate, all classic Merlot hallmarks balancing ripe red fruit with savoriness. The palate is seamless with silky fine-grained tannins, you can feel that some of the structure and concentration is delivered by the Cabernet component of this blend.



ORR

APPELLATION

Royal Slope

VARIETAL

80% Merlot,
20% Cabernet
Sauvignon

VINEYARDS

Stillwater Creek

BARRELS

Neutral French Oak

AGING

20 months in barrel
6 months in bottle

ALCOHOL

14.8%

CASES

PRODUCED

120