

# 2007 Merlot

## Columbia Valley

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Washington's success with vinifera is due in large measure to the state's unique geography. The vineyards are planted on the east side of the Cascade Mountains, which serve to protect the region from marine weather off the Pacific coast and limit rainfall to just 6 - 8 inches annually. Low rainfall and free-draining soils allow vineyard managers to control vine vigor in order to promote flavor and ripen fruit to perfection. Cool autumn nights protect the grapes' natural acidity.

### Vintage Notes

The Columbia Valley's growing season showed average temperatures throughout the year. 2007 began with high temperatures creating smaller canopies, allowing more light penetration, resulting in outstanding flavor development. Hot summer weather led to cooler conditions mid-September creating ideal harvest conditions. Cooler temperatures continued through October allowing for longer hang time and more developed fruit flavors. The 2007 vintage of wines will be well-balanced, smooth tannins with an abundant of flavors.

### Tasting Note

Wonderful aromas of blueberry, vanilla, nutmeg, cherry and leather dance in the glass. A full palate with rich cherry, blackberry flavors marry with notes of clove and black pepper. Firm tannins round out the finish with lingering fruit.

### Bottling

pH: 3.45  
TA: 5.29 g/L  
ALC: 13.5%

### Variety Blend

94% Merlot  
3% Syrah  
3% Cab Franc

