

Chateau Ste Michelle

Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from Chateau Ste Michelle is a classic expression of Washington's premier red grape, offering rich fruit flavors, silky tannins, and a beautifully structured profile.

Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Washington, USA



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Syrah, 7% Merlot, 2% Malbec

Region and Vineyards

The **Columbia Valley** is Washington State's most renowned wine region, celebrated for its unique terroir. The vineyards lie in the **rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains** , which limits annual rainfall to just **150-200 millimeters (6-8 inches)**, allowing for precise control of vine growth through irrigation.

Warm, sunny days provide the heat necessary for ripening, while cool evening temperatures preserve the grapes' acidity, resulting in a perfect balance of flavor and structure. The sandy soils in this region are low in fertility and water retention, ensuring concentrated fruit with vibrant aromatics and depth. The **growing season** featured a mild summer and cool autumn, creating ideal conditions for the development of bright fruit flavors and balanced acidity.

Winemaking

Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend of **82% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **8% Syrah**, **7% Merlot**, **2% Malbec**, and **1% other red varietals**, showcasing a rich, layered profile. The grapes were destemmed and inoculated with diverse yeast strains to enhance complexity.

Fermentation included gentle pumpovers to extract optimal color and flavor while maintaining soft, supple tannins. The wine was aged for **12 months in oak barrels**, comprising **25% new French oak**, **8% new American oak**, and **67% neutral oak**. This thoughtful aging process imparted subtle oak influence while allowing the wine's vibrant fruit character to shine.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby red with brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma**: Aromas of **red and black fruit**, including cherry, plum, and currant, with hints of vanilla and a touch of spice.
- **Palate**: A well-balanced wine with flavors of **ripe blackberries**, **dark cherries**, and subtle cocoa. The tannins are smooth and velvety, leading to a long and elegant finish.

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Did You Know?

Chateau Ste Michelle is Washington State's oldest winery, established in **1934**, and has played a pivotal role in defining the region's reputation for producing world-class Cabernet Sauvignon.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef tenderloin with mushroom sauce**: The wine's rich fruit and soft tannins complement the tender, savory beef and umami-rich sauce.
- **Pasta with Bolognese sauce**: Its structure and vibrant acidity balance the hearty, meaty flavors.
- **Grilled portobello mushrooms**: The earthy mushroom flavors pair beautifully with the wine's complexity.
- **Aged cheddar or Parmesan cheese**: The wine's dark fruit and subtle spice balance the sharpness and nuttiness of these cheeses.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 91 Points (2020)

This superb value strikes first with a marine-themed nose of a salty ocean breeze, a driftwood beach fire, blackberries, olive oil and a trace of bacon fat. Smooth and viscous, with dark plum and bittersweet chocolate-covered cherries coating the palate.



Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 90 Points (2019)

Straight-ahead red, this wine is dark and lean, offering scents of caramel, cedar, plum and mint. It's a steal for the price, with firm, slightly bitter tannins to put up against a smash burger. Best buy.