

Chateau Ste Michelle

Columbia Valley Syrah from Chateau Ste Michelle is an approachable and fruit-forward expression of Washington's celebrated Syrah, delivering vibrant berry flavors and a touch of spice.

Columbia Valley Syrah 2020

Washington, USA



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 95% Syrah, 4% Viognier, 1% Grenache

Region and Vineyards

The **Columbia Valley** is Washington State's largest and most diverse wine region, offering an array of microclimates and soils ideal for Syrah cultivation. The warm days and cool nights of the region foster optimal ripening while maintaining natural acidity, essential for producing balanced wines.

Grapes for the **Columbia Valley Syrah** were predominantly sourced from the **Yakima Valley AVA (85%)**, with contributions from **Horse Heaven Hills**, **Snipes Mountain**, and other Columbia Valley AVAs. These vineyards benefit from eastern Washington's long, warm growing season, which allows Syrah to achieve ideal ripeness and complexity. The volcanic soils in these areas provide excellent drainage, contributing to the wine's vibrant fruit character and structured profile.

Winemaking

This **Syrah** was crafted with a focus on preserving the variety's bright, juicy flavors while enhancing its soft tannins and balanced structure. The fermentation process utilized a combination of **pumpover and délestage techniques**, which extract color and flavor while ensuring gentle tannin management.

The wine was aged for **14 months in a combination of oak barrels**, with **20% new French oak**, **10% new American oak**, and **70% neutral oak**. This thoughtful aging regimen lends subtle vanilla and spice notes to the wine, complementing its rich fruit profile without overpowering its freshness.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with a bright clarity.
- **Aroma**: Aromas of **ripe berries**, such as blackberries and blueberries, with hints of **vanilla** and a touch of spice.
- **Palate**: Juicy and fruit-forward, with flavors of **bright red and black berries**, soft tannins, and a hint of vanilla that leads to a smooth, satisfying finish.

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Did You Know?

Chateau Ste Michelle, established in **1934**, is one of the pioneers of vinifera grape growing in Washington State. The winery owns **3,500 acres of vineyards** in the Columbia Valley, including prestigious sites like Horse Heaven, Canoe Ridge Estate, and Cold Creek vineyards.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **BBQ ribs**: The wine's juicy fruit and soft tannins balance the smoky, savory flavors of barbecue.
- **Grilled salmon**: The vibrant berry flavors and hint of spice complement the richness of the fish.
- **Hard cheeses**: Its fruit-forward profile pairs well with the strong, nutty characteristics of aged cheeses.



Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 89 Points (2017)

This offers impressive complexity at the price, with scents of licorice and smoked meat, sumptuous oak flavors and sleek fruit. Buy it by the case for outdoor parties.