

Chateau Ste Michelle

A partnership between Chateau Ste Michelle and Marchesi Antinori , Col Solare is a bold yet polished Cabernet Sauvignon, offering layers of dark fruit, cocoa, and fine-grained tannins with remarkable aging potential.

Col Solare 2018

Washington, USA



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc

Region and Vineyards

The **Red Mountain AVA**, located in southeastern Washington, is renowned for its unique terroir and exceptional conditions for viticulture. Known as the state's smallest but most prestigious appellation, it benefits from a **warm, arid climate with long sunny days** and cool nights, fostering optimal grape ripening and acidity retention. The volcanic soils, composed of gravelly sand with high calcium content, enhance drainage and contribute to the wine's structure and minerality.

Grapes for **Col Solare** were meticulously selected from three elite vineyards: the **Col Solare Estate Vineyard**, contributing power and tannic intensity; the **Shaw 32 Vineyard**, known for its rich and concentrated fruit; and the **Quintessence Vineyard**, which adds vibrancy and a touch of finesse. Each of these sites is carefully managed to maintain low yields and ensure the highest fruit quality. The 2018 growing season featured warm spring and summer weather with cool autumn nights, enabling balanced development of fruit flavor, color, and natural acidity.

Winemaking

Col Solare blend is composed of **97% Cabernet Sauvignon** and **3% Cabernet Franc**, showcasing the strength and elegance of the Red Mountain terroir. Hand-harvested at peak ripeness, the grapes underwent small-lot fermentation in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. This process allowed for gentle extraction of color, flavor, and tannins, preserving the integrity of the fruit while building structure.

Following fermentation, the wine was aged for **22 months in 100% new French oak barrels**, providing depth and complexity. The extended barrel aging allowed the wine to develop a harmonious balance between its robust fruit profile and the subtle influence of oak, resulting in a wine with fine-grained tannins and remarkable length. This meticulous attention to detail reflects the collaborative expertise of the winemaking team from **Chateau Ste Michelle** and **Marchesi Antinori**.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby red with an opaque core and garnet highlights.
- **Aroma**: Complex and inviting, with notes of **black cherry**, **currant**, and **plum**, layered with hints of **dark chocolate**, **vanilla**, and subtle spices.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and richly textured, offering flavors of **ripe blackberries**, **cocoa**, and a touch of tobacco. The tannins are smooth and velvety, leading to a long, elegant finish.

Did You Know?

Col Solare is the result of a unique collaboration between **Chateau Ste Michelle**, Washington's leading winery, and Italy's legendary **Marchesi Antinori**, one of the most respected wine families in the world. This partnership brings together the best of both winemaking traditions, creating wines that are celebrated globally.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled ribeye steak with rosemary and garlic**: The bold tannins and dark fruit flavors complement the richness of the meat.
- **Braised lamb shanks with thyme**: The wine's structure and cocoa notes pair perfectly with the savory, slow-cooked flavors.
- **Dark chocolate fondant**: The hints of cocoa and fine tannins enhance the dessert's rich intensity.
- **Aged Gouda or Manchego cheese**: The wine's depth and complexity balance the nuttiness and saltiness of these cheeses.

96 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 96 Points (2018)

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (97% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc) reveals a vivid purple/ruby color to go with a young, unevolved bouquet of pure cassis, spicy oak, chocolate, and tobacco. Full-bodied on the palate, it has remarkable tannins, a great mid-palate, and a rare mix of richness and elegance. It needs 4-5 years of bottle age to develop additional complexity, but it has incredible potential and is one head-turning Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon.

94 Wine&Spirits

Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 94 Points (2018)

Col Solare's 2018 cabernet seems like a master class in taming the Red Mountain beast. It's a big, powerful wine: Smelling it is like stepping up to an edifice, but what may impress you most is its savor and smoky complexity. If you can imagine grilled blueberries, that's the idea. The flavors are heady, dark and concentrated, with a formidable oak component, and yet the wine feels like it's on tiptoe, the intensity on a small scale. It needs years in the cellar.

Ste Chateau Michelle

Col Solare 2018

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2018)

A full-bodied red with aromas of black fruit, dried violets, bitter chocolate, cedar and slate. Concentrated and intense with firm, polished tannins. Firm and compact with mineral undertones on the finish.

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