



2016 Pirouette, Red Wine
Columbia Valley
Philippe Melka & Agustin Huneus, Sr.

Philippe Melka and Agustin Huneus, Sr. teamed to combine the traditions of old-world winemaking, the advancements of new world technology, and small lots from Washington State's finest vineyards to craft this enticing red blend.

Tasting Notes: A richly aromatic wine with beautiful notes of cassis, toasted walnuts, fresh rosemary and a hint of earthiness. On the palate, silky tannins create an elegant, textured mouthfeel with layers of blackberry, ripe cherry, dark chocolate and a hint of oak spice that gain focus across a vibrant finish.

Vintage: Like the last several growing seasons, 2016 was another hot year that required extra care in the vineyards. Building on the success of our canopy management program over the last few vintages, we worked with growers throughout the season to encourage growth of the canes and outside foliage to protect against the sun while opening up the fruit zone for even maturation. Warm temperatures in the fall hastened ripening, but the Columbia Valley's cool autumn nights protected the grapes' acidity, yielding bright, vibrant wines that will drink well in their youth but also promise to bring enjoyment to those who cellar.

Winemaking: A variety of fermentation methods were used to enhance complexity and richness in this classic Bordeaux blend. Hand-harvested Cabernet was fermented in 400L French oak barrels that were gently rolled throughout fermentation to integrate the oak with refined, dark fruit flavors and give the wine its silky mouthfeel. All other varieties were fermented in traditional stainless steel tanks, with select lots enjoying longer skin contact to enhance the wine's dark color and mid-palate. The finished wine was aged 22 months in French oak barrels (75% new) before bottling, unfiltered and unfined.

Vineyards: Red Mountain is prized for its Cabernet Sauvignon and this wine displays all the structure and textured richness that has come to characterize the grapes from this acclaimed growing region. Dionysus Vineyard's Petit Verdot adds layers of complex aromas and flavors. The remainder of the blend is from select Wahluke Slope vineyards. The Merlot brings juicy, richness to the finished wine; Cabernet Franc adds a hint of earthiness; and Malbec contributes appealing spice and beautiful color.

Blend: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon
15% Merlot
8% Petit Verdot
6% Cabernet Franc
3% Malbec

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.85
TA: 0.55 grams / 100ml
Production: 2,188 cases