



2017 THE VELVET DEVIL MERLOT

As advertised, pure velvet, deep and delicious dark fruit, cedar and tobacco, and cassis. It conveys concentration and richness, yet purity and focus. It's so good that it appears the devil made me do it.

BLEND

89% Merlot, 10% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 1% Malbec

Appellation

Washington State

Production

Whole Berry Fermentation
Yeast: Native Fermentation
30% New French Oak
10 Months Barrel-Aged on Lees

WINE ANALYSIS

13.5 Alcohol

UPC

086003253025

Suggested retail price
\$12.99

PAST SCORES

88 Points (2016 vintage, Washington State), *Wine Spectator*, November, 2018

"Sleek and zippy, with lively black cherry, toasted cinnamon and spice flavors. Drink now through 2021." — Tim Fish

VINEYARDS

The vineyards we work with are farmed using the most up-to-date sustainable practices.

Sundance: One of the oldest vineyards on the Wahluke Slope, planted in 1997. The site is topsoil over gravel, sand, and broken-down basalt with more caliche than other sites in the Wahluke. The vineyard, because of its aspect, is also a later ripening site, allowing for great concentration.

Art Den Hoed: 250 acres over the south slope of the Rattlesnake Mountains in the Yakima AVA at 1,300 feet elevation. The excellent air, drainage and higher elevation work to preserve the natural acids in the grapes while flavors mature.

Weyns: Located in the Royal Slope area, which is part of the Columbia Valley AVA. Its elevation is about 1,000 feet on sandy loam soils.

Purple Sage: Located on the Wahluke Slope, this site is made up of sandy, alluvial soils.

VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage started early and warm in Washington State. When summer arrived, the season saw cooler evenings that helped retain acidity, extending the growing and ripening period into September and October. This allowed the fruit to gain more complexity and deeper charm without sacrificing the acid or producing higher alcohol content. The vintage has created deeply rich and focused wines that we will be able to enjoy for a long time to come.

**CHARLES
SMITH
WINES**