

Matthews

2022 COLUMBIA VALLEY CLARET



The 2022 Matthews Columbia Valley Claret is comprised of several small vineyard parcels within the greater Columbia Valley, with key vineyard sites in Horse Heaven Hills, Red Mountain, and Royal Slope AVA's as well as the famed Conner Lee vineyard. This wine truly represents the broad flavor and aromatic expressions of a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blend from the diverse terroirs of Washington State.

The new winemaking team worked with our vineyard managers to update our viticultural practices, reducing yields (on average) by 30% for each site. These restricted yields created small, concentrated berries. Further vineyard dedication meant we were able to harvest between 3-6 weeks later than previous vintages. This allowed each site to fully develop the proper ripeness and flavor profile we were looking for.

Each vineyard was hand-harvested in the early mornings between late September & late October, culminating on November 1st for our last pick. Upon arriving at the winery, each vineyard parcel was hand-sorted, de-stemmed, and berry-sorted. The grapes were placed in tank and cold soaked for 2 days, before undergoing a 14 day fermentation and an additional 14 days of extended maceration, for a total of 32 days in tank for maximum phenolic extraction and integrated, polished tannins. The wine was celled for 26 months in new French oak (42%) and used French oak (58%). In the spring of 2023, we selected 198 barrels to be carefully selected and blended. The wine was bottled in June, producing only 4734 cases.

Twenty-two separate clones were included in the final blend (Cabernet Sauvignon: 191, 8, 2, 4, 31, 21 Merlot: 15, 2, 3 Cabernet Franc: 1, 327 Malbec: 4).

"A great savoury nose, enticing wild mountain herbals, deep forest bay and eucalyptus. 'We go for depth and complexity; we wipe the slate clean every year. It's not a formula, says the Matthews winemaking team.' It's Cabernet dominant, but the goal is to offer that depth and immediate pleasure. Wild forest fruits, Juicy blue and black fruits mark the palate, balanced by a savoury thyme freshness and stony minerality."

94 POINTS, CLIVE PURSEHOUSE, DECANTER

"...delicate and understated in the glass, with suggestions of dusty rose and cedary spice complementing red plums. Cool-toned and racy in style, it offers ripe wild berry fruits and an air of lavender pastille elevated by brisk acidity. It finishes with staining length and concentration, is pleasantly chewy and has a wild blueberry tinge that lingers on."

94 POINTS, ERIC GUIDO, VINOUS

SELECT VINEYARDS

1	Columbia Valley AVA	Conner Lee
2	Royal Slope AVA	Eagle & Plow, Stoneridge, Solaksen
3	Horse Heaven Hills AVA	Phinney Hill, Spice Cabinet, Cavale
4	Red Mountain AVA	Red Mountain Vineyard

AVA	Columbia Valley
Varietals	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec
Fermentation	32 days in stainless steel
Aging	26 months in new French oak (42%) and used French oak (58%)
Alcohol	14.9%
Cases	4,734
Best Between	Now - 2036
Retail	\$55

