



2007 Fidelitas Columbia Valley Merlot

columbia valley

TASTING NOTES

The 2007 Columbia Valley Merlot is a blend of three vineyards - each contributing to the unique flavor profile. This ruby toned wine is nearly opaque, offering aromas of ripe strawberry and plum, milk chocolate and Chinese 5-spice. The mouthfeel is full and plush with soft, lingering tannins highlighting black cherry, caramel and tobacco notes. Drink now through 2015.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Merlot

VINEYARDS

A blend of three vineyards - 58% Stillwater Creek, 25% Weinbau and 17% Conner-Lee - create a wonderful complexity within this single varietal wine. Fruit from Stillwater Creek, whose steep slopes are found a little further north in the Columbia Valley, impart full fruit tones within the wine. In the heart of the Wahluke slope, Weinbau Vineyard offers fruit with a rich, ripe quality. Conner-Lee is more in the northeastern corner of the Wahluke Slope and contributes to the earthy, herbaceous quality of this merlot.

VINTAGE

The 2007 vintage provided normal spring temperatures and bud break started around mid-April. In May, a brief burst of heat led to a smaller canopy, that allowed more light to filter through and contribute to great flavor development. Yields were slightly smaller than expected and harvest lasted only six weeks. However, the overall harvest temperatures were ideal and led to smaller berries with concentrated flavors.

VINIFICATION and AGING

All fruit for Fidelitas is hand picked and sorted in the vineyard. At the winery, grapes are destemmed and crushed directly into small fermentation tanks where the must is punched down three times daily for an average of seven days. Upon completion of fermentation, the wine is gently pressed off and immediately put into barrel, where it undergoes malolactic fermentation. While aging in oak barrels, the wines are racked quarterly to naturally clarify the wine. The 2007 Columbia Valley Merlot has been aged in 50% new oak (French and American) for 22 months.

PAIRINGS

The Columbia Valley Merlot is a wine with great versatility. Bold fruit tones make this wine approachable for casual weeknight dinner, while velvety tannins create a wine for special occasions as well. During the week, try homemade pizzas loaded with grilled vegetables and chicken. For a weekend dinner, serve the Columbia Valley Merlot with eggplant parmesan or a grilled rack of lamb with mushrooms and figs.

RELEASE DATE

May 2010, 221 cases

ALCOHOL

14.4% alcohol by volume

