

CANVASBACK®

2018 CIEL DU CHEVAL CABERNET SAUVIGNON

With ideal soils and a dry desert climate, Red Mountain produces some of the most compelling and distinctive red wines in the New World. One of the region's oldest and most renowned vineyards, Ciel du Cheval was established in 1975, and for decades it has been the source for some of Red Mountain's most extraordinary bottlings. This barrel selection of our finest lots from Ciel du Cheval offers a classic expression of Red Mountain, combining layers of blackberry, Kirsch and violet with hints of graphite and crushed-rock minerality.

VINTAGE NOTES

2018 offered near-perfect growing conditions from bud-break until the end of harvest. After a warm April, and an early budbreak, May and June turned cool, providing ample time to prune the vines through careful shoot selection. July and August brought a return to classically warm Washington weather, without any noteworthy heat stress. From the beginning of September onwards the weather was ideal for harvest, with no rain, and sunny days with temperatures ranging from the high-70s to the low 80s. A slightly warmer-than-average year overall, 2018 was an exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon vintage, yielding impeccably balanced wines with depth, energy and beautiful fruit intensity.

WINEMAKING NOTES

While the first swirl offers enticing red fruit aromas of plum, raspberry and Bing cherry, as it opens up, deeper elements of blackberry and cassis are revealed, along with hints of savory bay leaf, juniper berry, graphite and crushed rocks. On the palate, this wine is classically structured, with a lush entry and expansive, mouth-filling tannins framing the voluptuous red and black fruit flavors. As it draws to a close, hints of sarsaparilla, vanilla and cream emerge, mingling with the rich blackberry flavors for a long, resonant finish.

- Made from old-vine blocks planted in 1994, 1998, and 2003. Fermented in small, open-top stainless bins, with daily punchdowns by hand.

WINEMAKING

VINEYARD	Ciel du Cheval Vineyard
APPELLATION	Red Mountain
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
OAK PROFILE & AGING	20 months oak aging, 72% new oak, 28% neutral oak, 100% French Oak
SELECTION	We made the initial blend at first racking, following harvest, with rigorous barrel selections at subsequent rackings.
KEY COOPERS	Boutes, Richelieu
ALCOHOL	14.9%
PH	3.82
ACIDITY	0.58g/100ml

DUCKHORN PORTFOLIO



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