

2016 Ciel du Cheval Red Wine

**ANDREW
WILL**

We continue to see merit in keeping the blend of this wine close to a 50-50 split of Merlot and Cab Franc. These two varietals play off each other very well and create a much more focused version of this wine while still retaining a full structure and complexity without the addition of Cab Sauv.

The 2016 Vintage in Washington State started out quick during the spring, but in early June the weather returned to normal and thus lead to a start date of September 12th for picking. Harvest continued until October 25th with Cabernet Sauvignon from Two Blondes vineyard coming in. Right away we saw the high potential of the fruit and how this vintage would end up being another great vintage for us.

Reviews:

(93+ Points)... Begins with a red-fruited nose with dusty core of mineral-rich earth and red, floral bouquet wafts. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, the wine expresses flavors of black plum and dusty, dark cherry, showing a clean and spicy wine with a tannic core that is still grippy. The wine will age well or can be enjoyed now with its food-friendly expression at its current stage. Anthony Muller – Wine Advocate

(92+ Points)... Violet, cassis, blueberry, cedar, and graphite notes all emerge from the 2016 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard, which is from a great vineyard on Red Mountain. A blend of 57% Merlot and 43% Cabernet Franc brought up in 25% new oak, it's young and primordial, with loads of fruit balanced by good acidity, but it needs time to come together. Jeb Dunnuck – Jebdunnuck.com

Composition: 57% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol: 15%

Vinification: Indigenous yeasts, primary fermentation in stainless steel tanks using a Pulseair for cap management, no filtering, no fining, minimal SO₂

Vineyard: Ciel du Cheval, (sustainable farming, handpicked fruit, Vineyard Manager = Richard Holmes)

AVA: Red Mountain AVA, Washington State, USA

Average Age of Vines: 29 Years

Time in barrels: 18 months (25% New French Oak, 75% Neutral French Oak)

Bottling Date: May 2018

Release Date: February 2021

Total Production: 610 Cases

