

# WATERBROOK

WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

## Merlot

2016 • COLUMBIA VALLEY

### TASTING NOTE

"Sweet aromas of toast and crème brûlée lead into a spicy and elegant merlot with ripe, mixed berry and earthy forest-floor flavors. This merlot is of medium body and is complemented by bright acid. The finish has toasty oak and fine tanned leather notes. It will complement lots of foods, but will be best served with burgers, stews, pork chops or sausages."

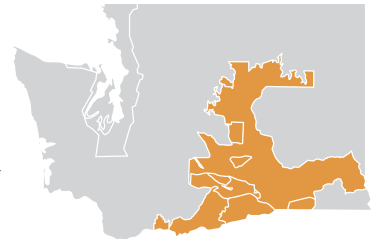
-John Freeman, Winemaker

### VINTAGE NOTE

The 2016 growing season started quickly with warm temperatures across Washington, encouraging vigorous vine development. By late June, however, temperatures cooled considerably, creating optimal growing conditions for fruit maturation. In late summer, rain came to the vineyard and helped ease vine stress, while the vineyard teams worked tirelessly to ensure the canopies and fruit clusters would produce top quality grapes. Longer-ripening red varietals will show more savory characteristics than in years past, making for cellar-worthy wines.

### VINEYARDS

- Waterbrook Estate, Mirage and Willard
- Known for its many and varied microclimates (cool, warm, windy, hilly, flat), Columbia Valley is the umbrella AVA under which many of the state's sub-AVAs fall.



### WINEMAKING

VARIETY PERCENTAGE: 100% Merlot

TA: 5.6 g/l | PH: 3.33

AGING: 10 months in 22% new American oak

ALC: 13.81%

88 POINTS – *Wine Spectator*

88 POINTS, TOP 100 BEST BUYS OF 2018 – *Wine & Spirits*

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