



BENTON HILLS

MERLOT 2020
COLUMBIA VALLEY

VINEYARDS

Benton Hills Vineyards is in a premier wine region in southeastern Washington state, comprising several arid southwest sloping hills that are home to many of the Columbia valley's most celebrated vineyards.

Dr. Walter Clore, considered by many the "father" of the Washington wine industry, was impressed by the region's gentle, south-facing slopes and warm temperatures. He encouraged planting rows to maximize sun exposure and establishing the site in small blocks to facilitate estate-grown wines managed for low yields through careful pruning and thinning practices. As a result of the vineyard's sustainable practices and attention to detail, grapes ripen evenly and the wines are consistently ripe, rich, and fruit-forward.

TASTING NOTE

The 2020 Merlot is rich and velvety with flavors of red berries and cherries with notes of mocha that pairs perfectly with roast chicken, grilled salmon, and medium-bodied cheeses.

- Andrew Wilson, Winemaker

WINEMAKING

This Benton Hills Merlot was fermented in stainless steel tanks from vineyard blocks on our east side. The wine was pumped over twice daily to facilitate flavor development and color extraction. The wine was pressed-off after a week-long maceration and allowed to complete malolactic fermentation on oak, softening and polishing the mouthfeel for a smooth, textured wine. The wine spent several months developing on oak before being carefully selected and blended to create the best possible accentuation of the softness and intense fruit character to be found in our estate wines.

Varietal Blend: 79% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: Goose Gap, Columbia Valley

TA: 5.1 g/L

PH: 3.72

RS: 4.02 g/L

Alcohol: 13.8%

