

Mark Ryan

WINERY

LITTLE SISTER

Merlot | Columbia Valley | 2018

Winemaking Notes

The merlot for the 2018 Little Sister comes exclusively from Quintessence Vineyard Block 13. This block was planted in 2011 in soils predominately consisting of fractured basalt and gravel with a light dusting of fine Loess. This combination of soils provides excellent drainage and a diverse mineral composition. In 2018 the site produced compact clusters with small berries leading to wonderfully rich and concentrated aromas and flavors. The 2018 vintage started off hot. Temperatures dropped significantly in September which allowed for more even ripening and the production of supremely balanced wines. The wine was fermented in a combination of 1.5, 2 and 5 ton open top fermenters for 7-10 days. Every effort is made to treat the wine as gently as possible. The must is never put through pumps and gentle punch downs occur twice per day. The wine is lightly pressed to barrel, where it finishes primary and malolactic fermentation and is aged for 21 months in 75% new French oak. The wine was racked twice prior to being bottled.

Tasting Notes

2018 Little Sister offers dense, dark fruit aromas mingled with crushed violets. Blueberry, plum, hints of leather, and lush dark fruits present on the palate with velvety tannins. This full-bodied, barrel selected merlot is lush and clean, with approachability now and structure to cellar for decades.

BLEND

100% Merlot

BARREL

75% 22mm French
Chateau Ferré Thin Stave

Aged for 21 months

PRODUCTION

100 cases

RELEASE

September 2020

APPELLATION

Columbia Valley

VINEYARDS

Quintessence

MATURITY WINDOW

2021-2031

PAST ACCOLADES

2017: 93 Wine Enthusiast
2016: 94 Jeb Dunnuck
2015: 93 Jeb Dunnuck



Founded in 1999 by Mark Ryan McNeilly, **MARK RYAN WINERY** is a small winery located in Woodinville, Washington. Our goal is to produce handcrafted wines that represent the vineyard from which they come, the character of the varietal, and our style. From the vineyards to the winery, our uncompromising commitment to quality and our passion to produce the best wines possible, inspire us to make these wines for you.

WOODINVILLE TASTING ROOM

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