



# FORGERON CELLARS

WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

**DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA  
WINERY & TASTING ROOM**  
OPEN TO PUBLIC. TOURS BY APPOINTMENT.

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Since 2001 Forgeron Cellars has been devoted to crafting artisanal, small-lot wines that explore the nuances of several highly respected and diverse vineyard sites throughout Washington's Columbia Valley. Showcasing the unblemished character within each varietal and revealing the unique vintage conditions of the fruit has resulted in a proud tradition of 90+ point award-winning wines.

## 2018 MERLOT

Minnick Hills Vineyard, Walla Walla Valley

### PROFILE

Our medium-bodied Merlot is sourced 100% from the Minnick Hills Vineyard located in the Walla Walla Valley. Alluring notes of black raspberry, forest floor, flambéed cherries, and dark chocolate fill the glass. Juicy red currant, spice, and dried herbs compose this well-balanced and superbly structured example of this beloved varietal. The finish features grippy tannins and a seemingly everlasting finish.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

Our Merlot from Minnick Hills benefits from the site's location in the Walla Walla Valley, which is known for its rolling hills and long hang-time in the vineyard. Capturing the vineyard's potential requires skillful farming techniques which are accentuated by elegant winemaking techniques utilized in the cellar. Modest use of new French oak combined with the freshness of this Merlot creates a soft and silky, yet complex wine. Minnick Hills consistently delivers ultra-premium fruit to us each and every year.

### VINTAGE NOTES

The summer of 2018 was one of the hottest years on record throughout the eastern side of Washington. We experienced several weeks of 95-degree and higher temperatures; at long last, a cooling trend arrived in August. The stretch of hot weather allowed an extended hang-time, resulting in appealing, complex flavor. This vintage turned out to be truly remarkable, producing lots with bright, fresh notes and seemingly innate balance.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

COMPOSITION: 100% Merlot  
VINEYARD: Minnick Hills Vineyard  
AVA: Walla Walla Valley  
COOPERING: 16 months in 22% new French oak, 78% neutral French oak  
PH: 3.81 | TA: 5.1g/L | ALCOHOL: 14.8%  
HARVEST DATE: September 2018  
PRODUCTION: 493 cases  
RETAIL: \$35  
UPC CODE: 833959001527



www.forgeroncellars.com