

# Mark Ryan

WINERY

## LITTLE SISTER

Merlot | Columbia Valley | 2015

### Winemaking Notes

The combination of a world class vineyard and an exceptional growing season provided us with the opportunity to produce a remarkable Merlot. The Merlot for Little Sister was planted at Red Willow vineyard in 1993 in ancient soils that were above the Missoula flood plain. The soils consist of 16"-20" of gravel mixed with calcareous clay over volcanic pumice and are excellent at controlling the natural vigor of the vines. Compact clusters with small berries led to wonderfully rich and concentrated flavors. The wine was fermented in 1.5 and 2 ton open-top fermenters for 9 to 12 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. Fermentation rounds are performed to monitor fermentation and track when the wines are ready to be lightly pressed to barrel, where it finishes primary and malolactic fermentation and is aged for 22 months. The wine was aged in 76% new French oak for 22 months and was racked twice prior to being bottled on June 29th, 2017.

### Tasting Notes

#### (92-94) Points

"I believe a new cuvee from this estate, the 2015 Merlot Little Sister (there's a tiny splash of Cabernet Franc) sports a vibrant ruby/purple color as well as ample black cherry and black raspberry fruit characteristics, ample graphite and minerality, full-bodied richness and a seamless, pure, elegant texture. It's going to drink nicely right out of the gate, yet also evolve nicely. It's a terrific expression of Washington State Merlot."

Jeb Dunnuck, *The Wine Advocate*

#### BLEND

97% Merlot  
3% Cabernet Franc

#### BARREL

76% New 22mm French  
Chateau Ferré Thin Stave

Aged for 21 months

#### PRODUCTION

99 Cases

#### RELEASE

October 7, 2017

#### APPELLATION

Columbia Valley

#### VINEYARDS

Quintessence  
Red Willow



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

14475 Woodinville-Redmond Road, Woodinville, WA 98072  
ph. 425.415.3865

#### WALLA WALLA TASTING ROOM

26 E. Main Street, Ste 1, Walla Walla, WA 99362  
ph. 509.876.4577

[www.markryanwinery.com](http://www.markryanwinery.com)