

Helix

2021 chardonnay

STILLWATER CREEK VINEYARD, ROYAL SLOPE

TASTING NOTES

Intense scents of ripe yellow pear, honeydew and mango vault from the glass with swirling apple blossoms and hints of lemon and pineapple. Moderate acidity and lovely minerality bathe the palate in a primary flavor fest of pear and citrus, with young banana, mango, and pineapple. An excellent Chardonnay with cheese and shellfish.

THE 2021 VINTAGE

The 2021 Stillwater Creek Chardonnay vines experienced an incredibly stressful growing season. It began with an early bud break and moderate canopy development. Late June and early July faced extreme heat (spiking at 115°F), followed by hot summer days up to harvest which occurred two weeks early. The vineyard management team deserves great praise.

THE VINEYARD

Stillwater Creek Vineyard is a 235-acre site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills, located in Washington's newest AVA: the Royal Slope (approved 2020). Planted in 2000 on a steep, south-facing slope with one of the most diverse clone selections in Washington State, Stillwater Creek quickly has earned a reputation as one of the Columbia Valley's top vineyards.

In March 2007, Stillwater Creek was the first Columbia Valley vineyard certified "Salmon Safe" by Seattle's Stewardship Partners for environmental practices that help protect water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife, particularly Northwest salmon.

THE AVA

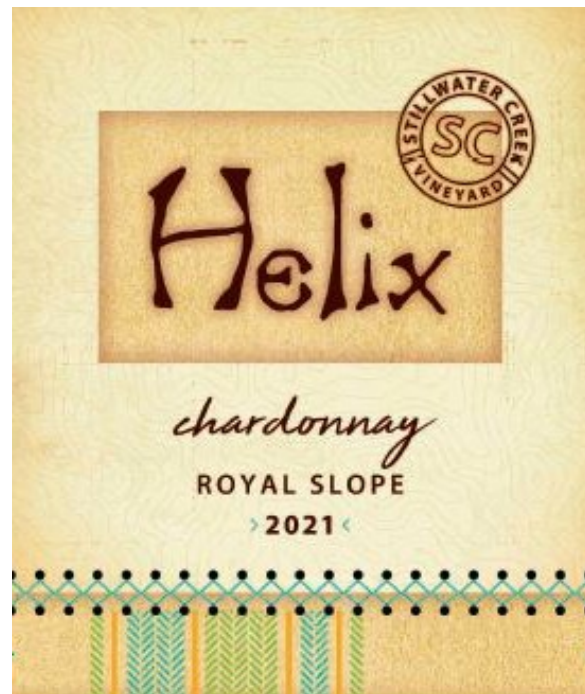
The Columbia Valley is the overarching appellation in Eastern Washington, covering nearly a third of the State and accounting for 99% of Washington's wine grape production.

While the vineyards of the Columbia Valley share much in common in the way of climate, subtle variations across the region have led to the discovery of numerous microclimates and the official assignment of sub-appellations, including the newest AVA, the Royal Site, which is where Stillwater Creek vineyard resides. With Helix, we hope to create wines that both represent the region at large and express the distinct flavors of each vineyard.

HELIX WINES

Helix Wines are the culmination of a long, storied family history in the Washington and Oregon wine and agriculture industries and a reflection of our family's belief that farming and winemaking is all about discovery. Helix wines are produced by the same family who create REININGER at our Walla Walla Valley winery. Named for a farmstead in Helix, Oregon, where our grandparents met, married, and farmed, Helix is truly a reflection of our family's pioneering background and strong sense of place. Since the first Helix vintage in 2002, our goal is to explore the diverse and unbounded Columbia Valley and to see for ourselves what the Columbia Valley vineyards are capable of producing.

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WINE DATA

Composition 100% Chardonnay

Vineyard Stillwater Creek

Cooperage 100% stainless steel

Alcohol 13.3%

pH 3.46

Total Acidity 5.8 g/L

Bottling Date March 2022

Release Date April 2022

Case 113

Production

Certifications Salmon Safe