

Kiona

2018 ESTATE RED MOUNTAIN MERLOT

The last 20 years have been interesting for Merlot. The simple truth is that there is *a lot* of lowish-quality Merlot in the marketplace, often produced en masse for grocery store labels. If the goal is to inexpensively ripen a lot of fruit in a so-so region, Merlot (unfortunately) fits the bill.

But here's the thing. Those of us in the industry producing high-quality Merlot in high-quality regions were left holding the bag. As a result, the grape's reputation suffered; never mind that in Washington (and by extension, Red Mountain), Merlot is on the upper echelon of quality. Likewise, our peers in Napa, Bordeaux, and beyond continue to produce face-meltingly good Merlot. When we pour this wine in the tasting room, it is almost always our top seller. It's not uncommon to hear remarks like, "I didn't know Merlot tasted like that," or, "well, this is a surprise!"

We're not surprised because Merlot is delicious, suave, and sophisticated. It is our region's second-most-planted cultivar and a bastion of consistent quality and appeal.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESIGNATION //

100% Red Mountain AVA, 100% Estate Grown

VINEYARD SOURCES //

90% Kiona Estate, 10% Heart of the Hill

VARITEAL COMPOSITION //

83% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Carmenère

BOTTLING INFORMATION // Bottled May 2021, 1,182 12 x 750 mL cases

pH // 3.8 **TA** // 5.25 g/L **ALCOHOL** // 15.1%

