



2018 Pirouette, Red Wine
Columbia Valley
Philippe Melka & Agustin Huneus, Sr.

Philippe Melka and Agustin Huneus, Sr. teamed to combine the traditions of old-world winemaking, the advancements of new world technology, and small lots from Washington State's finest vineyards to craft this enticing red blend.

Tasting Notes: The 2018 Pirouette is an expressive wine that opens slowly to reveal oak spice and a kaleidoscope of red and black fruit aromas and flavors that become more vivid as the wine develops in the glass. Textured and richly concentrated on the palate, the wine's voluptuous mouthfeel and refined tannins stretch across a long, satisfying finish.

Vintage: After a slow start to spring, the 2018 growing season heated up quickly. Temperatures stayed quite warm throughout the summer, then the weather moderated significantly in early September to extend hangtime. Harvest conditions were ideal as the Columbia Valley settled into a pattern of warm days and cool nights to slow ripening just enough to allow the grapes to mature fully without sacrificing acidity. The result is a vintage marked by balanced, concentrated wines with appealing texture and richness.

Winemaking: A variety of fermentation techniques were used to enhance the complexity and richness of this Bordeaux-style blend. Hand-harvested Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented in large, 400L French oak barrels that were gently rolled to integrate the oak and dark fruit flavors while developing rich, supple tannins. The remaining grapes were fermented in traditional stainless-steel tanks, with select lots receiving longer skin contact to enhance the wine's dark color and mid-palate. The finished wine was aged 22 months in French oak barrels (85% new) before bottling, unfiltered and unfined.

Vineyards: Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from a collection of Red Mountain's best vineyards gives Pirouette the structure and textured richness that has come to characterize this acclaimed growing region. Stone Tree Vineyard Merlot, grown on a rocky, south-facing hillside on the Wahluke Slope and managed for low yields, brings concentrated fruit flavors to the wine, notably black cherry. Finally, Dionysus Vineyard's Petit Verdot enhances the Pirouette's color and builds layers of intense aromas and flavors in the finished wine.

Blend: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon
22% Merlot
10% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.85
TA: 0.34 grams /100mL
Production: 2,475 cases