

2019  
PROPRIETARY  
ROCK  
Merlot



COLUMBIA VALLEY

100% Merlot

100% Estate Grown  
Double D Vineyard

182 cases produced

*Proprietary Rock gets its name from the prolific glacial river cobbles found throughout our LIVE and Salmon-Safe certified Double D Vineyard, located alongside the Columbia River in Orondo, Washington. Rocky Pond's irrigation pond holds 1.1 million gallons of water and is lined with these cobbles. The flagship vineyard is named after the original "DD" (David Dufenhorst) and has a north-facing slope with 55 acres of Bordeaux and Rhône varieties planted between 700 and 940 feet. This is one of the hottest sites in Washington, with similar heat units to Red Mountain.*

#### TERROIR

The bedrock is migmatitic tonalite gneiss formed during the Missoula Floods. The glacial outwash and redeposited river cobbles are mostly granitic, but there is basalt present as well. Wind-blown sand and silt were carried back to the area topsoil over the last 14,000 years from previous flooding and glacial erosion down the Columbia River channel. DD soil type is defined as pogue cobbly fine sandy loam.

#### VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season was excellent. A long winter led to a slight but advantageous delay in bud break, decreasing the spring frost risk by shortening the window of the growing season. The season caught up by June and kept tracking above the long-term average for heat in our area. It was a classic eastern Washington harvest for timing, and we picked the Merlot in the first ten days of October.

#### VINIFICATION

After hand-harvesting and hand-sorting, we began whole berry fermentation in stainless steel 1.5-ton box fermenters and gently hand-punched twice a day for 12-14 days or until dry. This wine is barrel aged for 21 months in 25% new French oak.

**Harvest Date:**  
Oct 7th & 9th, 2021

**Alcohol:** 14.0%

**Cellar Aging:**  
21 months in 25% new  
French oak

**pH/TA:** 3.74 / 5.8 g/L

#### WINEMAKER NOTES

*Proprietary Rock is 100% Merlot from the LIVE Certified Double D estate vineyard located alongside the mighty Columbia River. This limited production merlot is ruby garnet in color, with aromas of cassis and raspberry, cherry, plum and tobacco leaf. On the palate, notes of dark cherry, chocolate, and mineral. Approachable now but will age nicely for 10 years.*



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