

# Malbec

2018 | YAKIMA VALLEY



61% Mary Evelyn Vineyard  
clone 4 Malbec

39% Copeland Vineyard  
Côt clone Malbec

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.58

Titrateable Acidity: 6.0 g/L

Residual Sugar: <0.01 g/L

Alcohol: 14.0%

Volatile Acidity: 0.43 g/l

475 Cases produced



## Harvest and Winemaking

The 2018 growing season was influenced by slightly higher temperatures (3.6%) than the long term average and significant air pollution from the forest fires in Canada and the United States. The corresponding decreased sunlight delayed ripening and lengthened the harvest season. Gloriously, mid-September through late October had brilliant sunshine and little rain, creating a wonderful vintage for the wine grape harvest.

Our former i-Label Malbec vineyard was torn out in 2018 (replaced with blueberries) forcing a search for new sources of malbec. The Mary Evelyn Malbec was planted in 2004 on a high elevation (1100 ft), rocky south facing slope. Copeland Malbec was planted in 2012 on a rocky high elevation (1300') plateau. Both vineyards are located in the Rattlesnake Hills sub-AVA.

Mary Evelyn was hand-harvested on September 22 and Copeland was picked on September 25. To concentrate the wine we saignée 12% of Mary Evelyn and 9% of Copeland. Copeland was fermented with 15% whole clusters.

The i-Label Malbec was aged in 16% new French Oak barrels for 17 months.

## Tasting

Dark purple/red hue. Savory aromas of blackberry, violets, forest undergrowth, and roasted meat. On the palate, the Malbec tastes of dark berry, plum, cracked pepper, cocoa powder, and dried herbs. The acidity is high and lightens and freshens the dark fruit character.

## Thoughts on Malbec

Malbec's ancestral home is Cahors in South-western France. Malbec is also one of the six allowed red Bordeaux varietals. Argentina has surpassed Cahors with 70% of the world's Malbec. Cahors leans towards the savory, tart, less ripe, and meaty side of Malbec.

Our goal for Malbec is to craft a riper style of Cahors. Washington is ideal for this style of Malbec because of our hot summers, cool nights, and compact growing season. Clone 4 is the standard Washington Malbec vine. From Copeland, the Côt malbec wine is darker, more reductive, and more intense.

## Screw Capsules

Screw-Caps are superior wine closures. No cork taint, controlled oxygen ingress, 100% consistent in flavor, and no tools necessary to enjoy. Wine under screw caps ages better and lasts longer. Screw-Caps are aluminum and are 100% recyclable.

# ISENHOWER

## CELLARS



isenhowercellars



isenhowercellars



isenhowervino

Isenhower Cellars | 3471 Pranger Road | Walla Walla, Washington 99362

www.isenhowercellars.com  
info@isenhowercellars.com