



2016 MERLOT

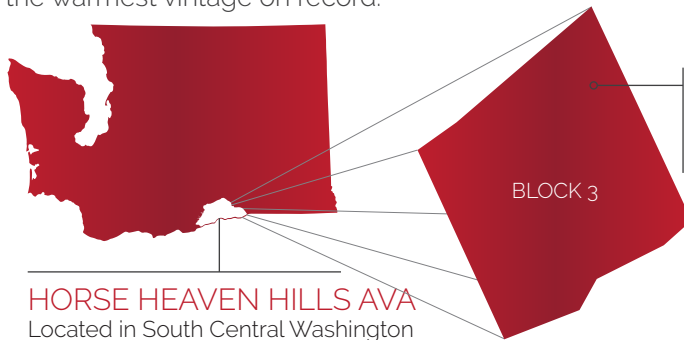
\$26 / 750ML. BOTTLE
(RETAIL)

TASTING NOTES

This estate grown 2016 "Gravity" Merlot definitely deserves more than a Sideways glance, if you catch our drift. Washington State has consistently flipped the script on the idea that Merlot is a boring, outdated grape only to be found on the bottom shelf. For this grape to truly shine it requires warm sunny days with cool nights to help it reach full maturity while retaining a balanced acidity. Here in the Horse Heaven Hills, we have that. Deep ruby in color, the 2016 Gravity offers layers of fruity aromatics on the nose. Plum, black cherry, strawberry and a hint of blueberry jump from the glass while earthy notes of leather, tobacco, and clove add balance and complexity to the nose and show beautifully on the palate. Elegantly structured tannins complement the wines cleansing acidity, leading to a lengthy finish. Although ready to drink now, this wine shows potential for cellaring upwards of five years. Please decant. Enjoy!

VINTAGE

2016 continued the trend of warm growing seasons in Washington marked by an early start. Bud break and bloom were significantly advanced from historical dates, with bloom occurring in some areas as early as the third week of May, a good two-plus weeks ahead of average. By the end of May, 2016 was easily on pace to surpass 2015 as the warmest vintage on record.



HORSE HEAVEN HILLS AVA
Located in South Central Washington

VINEYARD: Destiny Ridge Vineyard

APPELLATION: Horse Heaven Hills

AGING: Aged 22 months in 30% New French Oak Barrels & 70% 1-Year-Old French Oak

PRODUCTION: Release Limited to 343 cases

WINE MAKING TEAM: Jarrod L. Boyle, Matt Dodson & Ryan Strom

ALCOHOL: 14.4%

VARIETAL:

100%
Merlot

SOIL

Wind Blown Sand
Missoula Flood Sediment
Hill Slope Rubble

ABOUT ALEXANDRIA NICOLE CELLARS

Founders Jarrod and Ali Boyle are dedicated to producing small lots of hand-crafted wine from our own Destiny Ridge Estate Vineyard. Through attentive viticulture management, balanced crop levels, gentle hand-harvesting and processing of grapes, and passionate winemaking, we produce consistent quality in every bottle. Located in the Horse Heaven Hills, our 327-acre estate vineyard is located high on the bluffs overlooking the majestic Columbia River. It is here, high on the dominate ridge, that our grapes thrive in these unique soils. It is here that our winemaker Jarrod nurtures the fruit quality from bud to bottle. Our belief is that quality starts in the vineyard.

