



HIGHTOWER  
CELLARS

HANDPICKED      HANDSORTED      HANDMADE

**2001 Merlot**

Columbia Valley  
Washington State

88% Merlot	Alder Ridge, Artz and Shaw vineyards on Red Mountain, Pepper Bridge
6% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alder Ridge
6% Cabernet Franc	Alder Ridge

Exceptional grape sources and care in winemaking made the 2001 Hightower Merlot deliciously aromatic and well balanced. The wine's aromatics exhibit rich blue fruits with notes of smoke and sweet oak. On the palate, the medium bodied, elegant wine offers dark cherry flavors together with soft, elegant tannins akin to coarse silk.

The grapes for this wine were handpicked and handsorted to ensure that only the best grapes were used. We fermented the fruit in small open-top containers no taller than they are wide to extract greater flavor and color by having more juice in contact with the grape skins. After gently pressing the wine from the skins the wine aged in small oak barrels for twenty months. During barrel aging we gravity racked the wine off its lees with a siphon. Separate lots were blended and bottled in the summer of 2003.

We produced 392 cases.