



HIGHTOWER
CELLARS

HANDPICKED

HANDSORTED

HANDMADE

2002 Merlot

Columbia Valley

Washington State

100% Merlot

Artz and Shaw Vineyard on Red Mountain (46%), Alder Ridge (31%), Pepper Bridge (23%)

Hightower Cellar's 2002 Merlot has a deep ruby color and hints of tobacco wrap around a delicious plum and black cherry flavors. The supple tannins provide strong backbone and its lively acidity will partner perfectly with flavorful foods.

Each lot for this wine were handpicked and hand-sorted to ensure that only the best grapes entered the crusher/destemmer, free from leaves and other debris. Small open-top containers with a 1:1 ratio (no taller than they are wide) were used during fermentation to extract greater flavor and color by allowing more juice contact with grape skins. After gently pressing the wine from the skins, the wine aged in small oak barrels for twenty months, during which it was gravity-racked off its lees with a siphon. Separate lots were blended and bottled in the spring of 2004.

We produced 320 cases