

HIGHTOWER

C E L L A R S

2019 Red Mountain Merlot Red Mountain AVA

Merlot 83%, Cabernet Franc 9%, Malbec 8%
Out of Line Estate Vineyard 75%, E&E Shaw Vineyard 25%

Oak Program

French 50%, Hungarian 50%, New Oak 47%, Neutral Oak 53%
Aged for 23 months in barrel

Clones

Mostly Clone 15

Harvest Notes and Dates

2019 was “affectionately” known as the Snowmageddon Year. Late winter weather left snow in the vineyard in February into March, delaying pruning and other vineyard work. Summer temperatures were cooler and considerably more even than in recent years, with a notable lack of heat spikes. Overall, temperatures across the growing season were slightly above 20-year averages but were nowhere near as warm as the years that preceded it.

Out of Line Estate Vineyard Merlot, Clone 15 – September 16th, 2019

Shaw Vineyard Merlot – September 27th, 2019

Out of Line Estate Vineyard Cabernet Franc – September 26th, 2019

Out of Line Estate Vineyard Malbec – October 1st, 2019

Production Methods

Handpicked, crushed, and destemmed directly into square open top fermentors. We do not use a must pump to help tame the tannins. Primary fermentation mostly occurs in fermenters. The wine is put directly into barrel where it finishes primary fermentation and malolactic fermentation.

A Hightower Cellars Staple

We produced our first Merlot in 2000, while we were still working out of a tiny industrial space in Woodinville! It has been a staple of our lineup ever since.

Today our flagship Merlot features that big, bold fruit for which Red Mountain is famous. We do, however, pride ourselves in maintaining balance and structure through careful viticultural and winemaking practices. Pair with richly sauced dishes, red meat, and the good company of friends.

We produced 308 cases.