

# HIGHTOWER

C E L L A R S

## 2019 Red Willow Cabernet Franc Yakima Valley AVA

Cabernet Franc 75%, Cabernet Sauvignon 25%  
Red Willow Vineyard 100%

### Tasting Notes

Dusty, rose scented and savory herb and tart cherry aromas dominate the nose, with the classic slight menthol Cabernet Franc streak through it. The palate is smooth, elegant and mouthwateringly juicy. (NOT UPDATED FROM 2017 VINTAGE)

### Winemaking Notes

Instead of being a single varietal like our last Red Willow Cabernet Franc, this vintage is a blend with 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. While both varieties were delightful individually, we felt the combination was even better than the sum of its parts. The majority Cabernet Franc component brings a rich fruitiness with a backbone of herbal notes, deepened by the firm tannins and juicy fruitiness of the Cabernet Sauvignon. Having a couple years of working with Red Willow fruit under our belts, we decided to use a gentle oak profile, with only half of the barrels being new. This is because Cab Franc tends to lean spicy and herbal, which can be overpowering on the nose if you're not careful. We qualify the first three uses as "new", and this lot of wine was actually finished in a significant quantity of second-use barrels.

#### Red Willow Vineyard

With the first plantings completed in 1971, Red Willow is one of the oldest and most respected vineyards in Washington State. Now multi-generational grape farmers, the Sauer family's experience has led to a reputation for outstanding fruit quality and dedication to doing it right, which pairs perfectly with Hightower Cellars commitment to quality and excellence.

Red Willow is the western most vineyard within the Yakima Valley AVA, planted at a relatively high elevation of 1,100 to 1,300 feet. The Cabernet Franc comes from the Peninsula Block, first coined by David Lake, MW, and so named because the upper part of the block was above the Lake Missoula floodline. The parcel is underlain by Calcareous, volcanic soils with an influence of ancient river beds.

We produced 198 cases.

*WINE ~ WITH ~ CHARACTER*