



LADY HILL WINERY  
*True Northwest*

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2017

## Lady Hill Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Willow Vineyard, Columbia Valley AVA

### WINEMAKER NOTE

With the help of Washington wine legends Dr. Walter Clore and David Lake, MW, Mike and Karen Sauer began experimenting with vinifera cultivars at Red Willow in 1973. Karen's family had been tending the land since the 1920's, but were looking for something new to supplement the alfalfa hay, potatoes and cattle that had traditionally been on the farm. They decided to plant an experimental plot of 20 different varieties to evaluate what would grow best in the hot, arid climate and sloped hillsides of the Yakima Valley. The site, planted above the Missoula flood plain at 1200-1300 ft. of elevation in ancient volcanic soils, would prove to be one of the state's most iconic vineyards, introducing varieties such as Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Mataro, Tempranillo, Malbec, and Sangiovese just to name a few.

### CELLAR NOTE

The 2017 vintage started out as a refreshing break from the past number of years where early spring heat seemed to set the stage for hot ripening conditions. The cold, wet winter led to a later than average bud break roughly two weeks behind historical averages. The cool trend continued until summer, where the warmth of July and August pushed heat units up and set harvest back on schedule. Forest fires throughout the Pacific Northwest had growers and winemakers alike worried about the possibility of smoke taint, but thankfully we were spared the wrath. Early Fall rains and a September cool down seemed to stall sugar levels allowing flavors to develop and acidity to remain high, ideal conditions for this late season ripener.

**VARIETAL:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

**PRODUCTION:** 169 cases

**ALCOHOL:** 14.9%

### PROFILE

Intense hues range from wine purple to sangria showcasing Cabernet's genetic predisposition to tiny berries packed with color making molecules called anthocyanidins. Lifted candied red cherry and subtle blackberry liqueur combine New World fruit flavors with the minerality of ancient volcanic soils present in the famed Peninsula Block. The subtle wood impact of once filled and neutral French Oak barrels keeps the focus on the fruit, while maintaining the characteristic dusty tannins and lingering finish that Red Willow Cabernet Sauvignon has become famous for. Enjoy through 2028 by supporting local businesses, including paying a small corkage fee at your favorite steakhouse.

### PAIRING

A great steak, or hearty vegetarian fare.