

# Helix

2017 merlot

## COLUMBIA VALLEY

### TASTING NOTES

Rich, dark fruit jumps out of the glass while pouring. Black cherry and plum dominate the nose accompanied by black currant/cassis with hints of anise, dark chocolate, orchid and sweet sandalwood spice. Brighter than anticipated fruit with a silky plushness delivers black cherry and delicious raspberry to the palate. Hints of dark roast coffee beans and a lengthy, light toast oak finish with dark fruit culminate the experience.

### THE 2018 VINTAGE

A cool 2017 spring evolved to heat, followed by a hot summer, developed smaller berries and clusters with moderate yields. This set the stage for beautiful Merlot character.

### THE AVA

The Columbia Valley is the overarching appellation in Eastern Washington, covering nearly a third of the State and accounting for 99% of Washington's wine grape production.

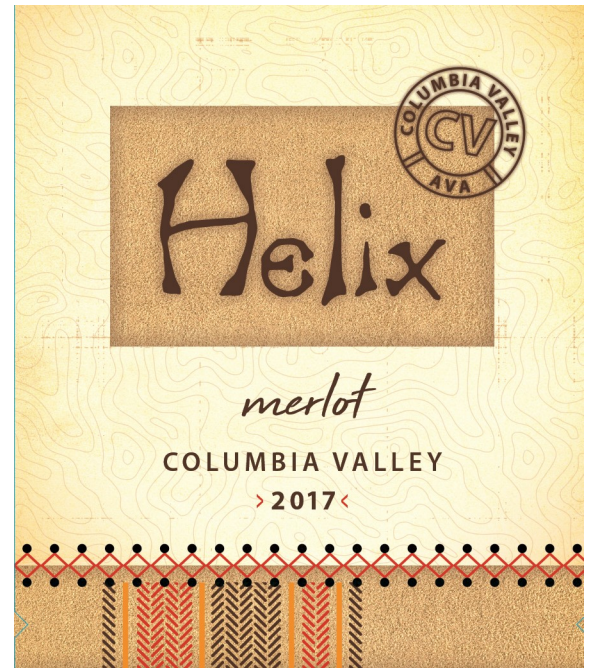
While the vineyards of the Columbia Valley share much in common in the way of climate, subtle variations across the region have led to the discovery of numerous microclimates and the official assignment of sub-appellations. With Helix, we hope to create wines that both represent the region at large and express the distinct flavors of each vineyard.

The 2017 Merlot is primarily sourced from Bacchus Vineyard, located 20 miles north of Pasco. It is always the earliest ripening Merlot we have as well as one of the first grapes to hit our crush pad each harvest.

Generally speaking, Bacchus' Merlot has beautiful color intensity and dark fruit-forward, particularly with notes of black cherry. It's the most flavorful and intense Merlot we source from the Columbia Valley. The fruit has a nice, round medium-plus tannin structure, and the acid tends to lean toward the fatter side.

## HELIX WINES

Helix Wines are the culmination of a long, storied family history in the Washington and Oregon wine and agriculture industries and a reflection of our family's belief that farming and winemaking is all about discovery. Helix wines are produced by the same family who create REININGER at our Walla Walla Valley winery. Named for a farmstead in Helix, Oregon, where our grandparents met, married, and farmed, Helix is truly a reflection of our family's pioneering background and strong sense of place. Since the first Helix vintage in 2002, our goal is to explore the diverse and unbounded Columbia Valley and to see for ourselves what the Columbia Valley vineyards are capable of producing.



WINE DATA	
<i>Composition</i>	97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Vineyard</i>	Bacchus, Phinny Hill & Stillwater Creek
<i>Cooperage</i>	100% American (24% new)
<i>Alcohol</i>	14.8%
<i>pH</i>	3.62
<i>Total Acidity</i>	5.8 g/L
<i>Bottling Date</i>	July 2019
<i>Release Date</i>	June 2020
<i>Production</i>	120 cases

5858 Old Highway 12 ♦ Walla Walla WA 99362 ♦ 509.522.1994

helixwine.com