

DeLILLE CELLARS

THE LATEST SCORES FROM WINE REVIEWER

JEB DUNNUCK

FEBRUARY **2019** | 2016 **VINTAGE** ● | 2017 **VINTAGE** ●

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2016 **FOUR FLAGS** 97 RED MOUNTAIN

"One of the gems in the lineup is the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Four Flags. This thrilling, sensational Cabernet Sauvignon has a beautiful perfume of red currants, spice box, new leather, and dried flowers. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, and thrillingly textured, it offers balance, remarkable purity, and a finish that won't quit. While Red Mountain is known for producing powerful, structured wines, this is all about finesse and elegance. It will drink nicely for two decades."

97 2016 **GRAND CIEL** **CABERNET SAUVIGNON** RED MOUNTAIN

"The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Ciel Vineyard is another magical wine from this great vintage and the more elegant, classic style of the vintage worked beautifully with Red Mountain fruit. Classic blackcurrants, lead pencil, graphite, and charcoal notes all flow to a full-bodied, concentrated, layered 2016 that's flawlessly balanced, has remarkable purity, and a great finish."

FUTURE RELEASE



93 2017 **CHALEUR BLANC**
COLUMBIA VALLEY

"Always one of the best whites in the vintage, the 2017 Chaleur Blanc delivers the goods and is a beautiful, Bordeaux Blanc look-alike that has classy lemon curd, citrus, mint, and green herb aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied and beautifully textured, it will keep for 4-5 years. The 2017 is primarily Sauvignon Blanc but includes 30% Semillon and was brought up in 60% new French oak."



2016 **D2** **92**
COLUMBIA VALLEY

"The 2016 D2 is mostly Merlot but includes 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and a splash of Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. It has a Bordeaux-like bouquet of tobacco, earth, lead pencil, and graphite, with plenty of ripe dark fruit. Rounded, medium to full-bodied, and textured, it's a terrific second wine to drink over the coming 10-15 years."

91 2017 **ROUSSANNE**
RED MOUNTAIN

"Coming all from the Ceil du Cheval Vineyard on Red Mountain, the 2017 Roussanne offers classy notes of white peach, honeysuckle, and white flowers in a medium-bodied, nicely balanced package. It has solid richness, yet stays fresh, vibrant, and clean, with a great finish."





2016 **MÉTIER** **92**
COLUMBIA VALLEY

"The Southern Rhône blend is the 2016 Metier, which is 42% Grenache and 36% Mourvèdre, with the balance Cinsault. Violets, peppery spice, cedar, and sweet black raspberry fruits all emerge from the glass and it's ripe, rounded, and medium to full-bodied on the palate. There's some subtle background oak, but this is upfront and ready to go."



93 2016 **DOYENNE**
RED MOUNTAIN

"The 2016 Doyenne is the Provence-styled red of the estate and checks in as a 60/40 split of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, all from Red Mountain. This red, sexy beauty offers full-bodied notes of crème de cassis, crushed violets, lavender, and graphite. It has terrific purity and balance, ample character, and is certainly an outstanding wine."



GRAND CIEL
2016 **SYRAH** **95**
RED MOUNTAIN

"The flagship Syrah is the 2016 Syrah Grand Ciel Vineyard, which comes all from clone 383 and was brought up in 25-30% new French oak. It's a smoky, meaty, gamey Syrah that has tons to love. Blackberries, ground pepper, and olive notes all flow to a medium to full-bodied, concentrated yet seamless Syrah that has beautifully integrated tannins, acidity, and fruit. It's great today and is going to evolve for at least a decade."





2016 **CHALEUR ESTATE 95+** RED MOUNTAIN

"The flagship and made in decent quantities, the 2016 Chaleur Estate is a brilliant wine that unquestionably stands up with the top Bordeaux blends in the world. Based on 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot that was brought up all in new French oak, it reveals a deep purple color as well as powerful notes of black fruits, graphite, lead pencil shavings, and scorched earth. Deep, full-bodied, and beautifully layered, with subtle background oak and building structure, it needs 4-5 years of bottle age and will keep for two decades."

95 2016 **HARRISON HILL** SNIPES MOUNTAIN

"Always one of the most complex in the lineup, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Harrison Hill comes from Snipes Mountain and always reminds me of a top wine from Margaux with its elegance and complexity. Blackberries, blackcurrants, sandalwood, graphite, and tobacco leaf notes all emerge from this medium to full-bodied Cabernet that has silky tannins and a nuanced, elegant texture. It's going to benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for 15-20 years."



2016 **LOT 4 CABERNET SAUVIGNON 93** HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

"Brought up in 65% new French oak, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Lot 4 Discovery Vineyard offers impressive cassis and black raspberry fruit as well as some exotic orange rind and spice notes. Medium to full-bodied, with ripe tannins, it's another beautifully textured, elegant wine from this team."

* WINE CLUB EXCLUSIVE



95 2016 **LOT 3 CABERNET SAUVIGNON**
RED MOUNTAIN

"Another smaller production release is the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Lot 3. It's a deep, rich, Graves-like release that has ample dark fruits, gravelly, earthy minerality, chocolate, and lead pencil aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, concentrated, and beautifully balanced, it has silky tannins and is going to evolve gracefully."

* WINE CLUB EXCLUSIVE



2016 **RED WILLOW MALBEC** **94**
YAKIMA VALLEY

"Even better, the inky colored 2016 Malbec Red Willow Vineyard boasts complex notes of blackberries, plums, toasted spices, and subtle meatiness. Brought up in 60% new French oak, this full-bodied, rich, concentrated Malbec has terrific purity, a layered texture, and a great finish. It's a brilliant Malbec that rates with the top examples from the state."

* WINE CLUB EXCLUSIVE

92 2016 **QUINTESSENCE**
RED MOUNTAIN

"A great example of the variety (and I'm seeing more and more impressive Malbecs from the state), the 2016 Malbec Cabernet Sauvignon Quintessence Vineyard from Red Mountain offers classic blue fruits in a young, jammy, primary style that fills the mouth with fruit. Inky colored, nicely balanced, with sweet tannins and some floral, violet characteristics, it's going to benefit from a year in bottle and keep for 7-8."

* WINE CLUB EXCLUSIVE



BARREL SCORES

2016 SIGNATURE SYRAH (91-93)

The 2016 Signature Syrah is always a good value as well as a great example of Washington State Syrah. Blackberries, smoked herbs, earth, and hints of lavender all emerge from this medium-bodied, rich, balanced, beautiful Syrah that has loads of charm.

2017 SIGNATURE SYRAH (91-93)

The larger production Syrah is the 2017 Syrah Signature, which always seems to deliver classic Washington State Syrah character as well as outstanding quality. Notes of dark fruits, graphite, olive, bacon fat, and toasty oak all flow to a medium to full-bodied, elegant Syrah that's beautifully balanced on the palate. It has fine tannins and plenty of fruit. Drink it on release and over the following 8-10 years.

2017 FOUR FLAGS (93-96)

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Four Flags offers a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, powerful yet silky style, especially for Red Mountain fruit. It has tons of red and blue fruits, ample spice and exotic notes, building yet fine tannins, and a great finish.

2017 D2 (91-93)

Essentially the second wine of the estate, the 2017 D2 is nevertheless a beauty that has classic aromas and flavors, medium to full-bodied richness, fine tannins, and an outstanding texture. It's an impressive wine in its own right and well worth drinking.

2017 GRAND CIEL CABERNET (93-96)

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Ciel Vineyard comes from one of my favorite vineyards in the appellation and boasts a deep purple color as well as notes of crème de cassis, chocolate, and toasty oak. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced, with good acidity and ample concentration, it should be reasonably accessible on release yet also evolve for 15 to 20 years.

2017 CHALEUR ESTATE (93-95)

The wine the estate is most known for is their Chaleur Estate and it's a seriously impressive barrel sample in 2017. Graphite, lead pencil, blackcurrants, and leafy herb notes all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, classic, concentrated, yet elegant 2017 that does everything right. It's going to benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and evolve for two decades.

BARREL SCORES

2017 HARRISON HILL (92-94)

A wine that's always difficult to evaluate in its youth, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Harrison Hill nevertheless shows a deep, healthy color as well as classic notes of tobacco, sandalwood, and spice, with a beautiful core of fruit. Medium to full-bodied, with good acidity and a fresh, elegant profile, it's going to put on weight and density with time in barrel and will certainly be an impressive wine.

2017 GRAND CIEL SYRAH (93-95)

The 2017 Syrah Grand Ciel Vineyard offers a saturated purple color as well as a deep, masculine bouquet of scorched earth, dark chocolate, and smoked black fruits. It's full-bodied, concentrated, and structured, with terrific balance, but the cellar will be your friend on this one.

2017 DOYENNE (91-93)

The 2017 Doyenne (60/40 Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon) offers some toasty oak as well as rich blue fruits, cassis, and violet characteristics. It's a plump, medium to full-bodied effort that has terrific purity and a layered texture, and it's certainly going to be an outstanding wine.

2017 MALBEC CABERNET (94-97)

Coming from the Quintessence vineyard on Red Mountain and the Red Willow Vineyard in Yakima, the 2017 Malbec Cabernet Sauvignon looks to be a superstar in the vintage and was one of my favorites in the lineup. Its inky purple color is followed by terrific notes of blueberries, cassis, white pepper, and cedar. It's pure, medium to full-bodied, and flawlessly balanced, with a beautiful finish. Count me impressed.

2017 MALBEC RED WILLOW VINEYARD (93-96)

From one of the top sites in Yakima, the 2017 Malbec Red Willow Vineyard is a full-bodied, rich, powerful Malbec that holds on to a terrific sense of purity and elegance. Inky colored, with a great perfume of blue fruits, ground pepper, green herbs, and some meaty notes, it has outstanding potential.

2017 LOT 4 CABERNET DISCOVERY VINEYARD (93-95)

Loads of spice, cured meats, barbecue smoke, and tobacco emerge from the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Lot 4 Discovery Vineyard, which comes from a great site in the cooler Horse Heaven Hills AVA. Incredibly complex, medium to full-bodied, and balanced, it's a classic Washington State Cabernet that's going to evolve gracefully for 15-20 years.

BARREL SCORES

2017 RED WILLOW (92-94+)

A new wine, the 2017 Right Bank Red Willow Vineyard is a Cabernet Franc-based blend that includes 30% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. This beauty offers lots of Franc character in its black cherry and currant fruits and notes of forest floor, sappy herbs, and flowers. It's tight, medium to full-bodied, and vibrant on the palate, with fine tannins. It shows a focused, slightly backward style, yet I expect it's going to flesh out nicely over the course of its élevage. It's going to be an elegant wine to enjoy over the coming 10-12 years.

2017 SHAW VINEYARD CABERNET (94-96)

One of the standouts at this early stage is the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Shaw Vineyard, which comes from a site on Red Mountain. This is a warmer region and the 2017 is full-bodied and powerful, with complex notes of ripe dark fruits, tobacco leaf, earth, and chocolate. It's a powerful, concentrated 2017 that has loads to love.