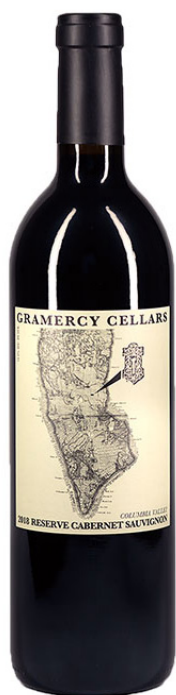


# GRAMERCY CELLARS



## 2018 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON COLUMBIA VALLEY



**BLEND:** 86% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,  
9% PETIT VERDOT, 5% MERLOT

**VINEYARDS:** BACCHUS, PHINNY HILL,  
GRAMERCY ESTATES

**AGING:** 22 MONTHS 45% NEW FRENCH OAK

**ALCOHOL:** 14.2%

**WINERY RETAIL:** 95

**CASE PRODUCTION:** 200 CASES

**DRINKING WINDOW:** 2022 - 2045

**WINE & SPIRITS:** 94 POINTS

**WINE ENTHUSIAST:** 93 POINTS CELLAR SELECTION

**WINE & SPIRITS:** 93 POINTS

Like the John Lewis Syrah, we begin blending the Reserve Cabernet with the question, “What is the best of the best in the cellar for that vintage?” Sometimes it’s a specific block of a vineyard. Other times, it is two vineyards in the same AVA. Maybe we find two or three vineyards that pair amazingly well in that specific year and produce a stunning wine, regardless of what the map says about their locations. Our only goal is to make the most stunning Bordeaux based varietal wine in that vintage. While we wander down this path, we always have two specific vineyards at the forefront of our minds.

We like to say that our Reserve was gifted to us by one of our fantastic grower partners. In the Winter of 2012, we received a very unexpected phone call from Kent Wailser of Sagemoor Vineyards. He said, “I’ve been tasting your Cabernet since 2006, and I think we may have something that would fit into your program.” Sagemoor is an incredible Cabernet vineyard with a remarkably storied history. Some of the most exalted Washington Cabernets ever made by the most prestigious wineries was with their fruit. Sagemoor lies on a hillside overlooking the Columbia River, perhaps 10 miles northeast of Red Mountain. We decided to give it a try and thought it would blend amazingly well with Phinny Hill. Our assumptions were correct as the vineyards complement each other perfectly.

Each vineyard is distinctly unique - total opposites. The old vine parcel at Sagemoor is Bacchus, approaching 50 years. It gives power, structure, and is black fruit driven. The 20+ year old block at Phinny Hill, in Horse Heaven Hills, brings elegance, bright aromatics, with a fresh red fruit profile. Our overarching goal is a beautifully balanced wine of complexity and finesse.

We took a slight detour with the 2018 Reserve Cabernet in a couple ways. First, we added a bit of Estate fruit to the blend. The wine is comprised of 52% Bacchus Block 9, 34% Phinny Hill Old Block and 14% Walla Walla Estate fruit. While we loved the typical Bacchus vs Phinny Hill blend, this wine went from outstanding to exceptional with a bit of Walla Walla fruit, adding aromatic complexity and depth in the mid palate of the wine.

Secondly, this wine has a very high percentage of Petit Verdot, almost 9%. When we blend this wine, we always test 1% and 10% Petit Verdot. This was the first year we went with the larger percentage. The large proportion of Petit Verdot adds a very muscular element to the wine but didn’t overpower with tannins as it tends to do. The wine was fermented for approximately 30 days with native yeasts and aged in 45% new French oak for 22 months. Bottled unfiltered & unfiltered.

**TASTING NOTES:** POWERFUL AND SERIOUS ON THE NOSE. DARK AND BROODING. PURPLE AND BLACK FRUIT WITH GRAVEL, GREEN HERB AND EXOTIC SPICE. SECONDARY FLAVORS OF KENYAN COFFEE, SWEET CREAM AND STONE. BAKING SPICES OF CLOVE, VANILLA AND CINNAMON FROM NEW FRENCH OAK. AS RICH ON THE PALATE AS THE NOSE WITH SMOKE, TAR, PENCIL SHAVINGS AND CEDAR. FIRM, GRIPPY TANNINS WITH MEDIUM-PLUS ACIDITY. HUGE-LY STRUCTURED AND POWERFUL WITH EXTREMELY LONG LENGTH. A CABERNET LOVER’S DREAM VINTAGE.



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635 N 13TH AVE | WALLA WALLA, WA 99362 | 509.876.2427