



LADY HILL WINERY
True Northwest

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Winemaker: Dan Duryee
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2017
AD LUCEM MOURVÈDRE
Red Willow Vineyard, Columbia Valley AVA

WINEMAKER NOTE

Latin for “into the light,” the Ad Lucem label represents a new beginning--an opportunity for consumers to discover new Northwest wine experiences through Lady Hill wines. Ad Lucem wines entice the adventurous palate into the realm of the Rhône, leading the curious consumer beyond the familiar landscape of Cabernet and Merlot. Ad Lucem wines are finely-crafted Northwest versions of Rhône-style blends for national distribution, as well as limited production, barrel selections of vineyard designated wines, such as this Mourvèdre. The wines offer accessible fruitiness combined with structure and complexity, making them as ideal for social gatherings as they are for pairing with meals prepared in the home.

Located in the far west reaches of the Yakima Valley sits the famed Red Willow Vineyard. Thanks to the recommendation of the great Dr. Walter Clore and the hard work and ingenuity of the Sauer family, a small block of this varietal was planted at 1400 ft. of elevation in ancient volcanic soils. Typically Mourvèdre, also known as Mataro in California and Australia or Monastrell in its native Spain, is a dark, thick skinned cultivar grown in the hottest of climates. It's even been nicknamed the “dog strangler” (Enstrangle-Chien) by the French for it's dark, tannin driven profile. The cellar crew would prefer to call this wine the moulin a poivre, or pepper mill. Coming in near the end of harvest and needing every bit of degree days the 2017 vintage could muster, the fruit was barely pushing 24 brix and still bright with acidity. Carefully sorted whole berry into just two 1.5 ton fermenters, the peppery, red fruited must was cold soaked and inoculated with a cool fermenting yeast strain for 20 days. Neutral French oak barrels and puncheons were used to age sur lie for 28 months until filtration and bottling in February of 2020.

VARIETAL: 100% Mourvèdre

PRODUCTION: 121 cases

ALCOHOL: 14.5% by volume

PROFILE: Glistening mahogany hues at its core are surrounded by auburn, brick and shades of amber. The aromatic complexity of this wine comes from the layers of bright candied red fruits combined with spicy cinnamon and nuanced white and black peppercorn. Previous vintages of this wine from Lady Hill combined fruit from the Red Mountain AVA, one of the hottest AVA's in Eastern Washington. Without that concentrated richness and dusty tannin structure, the wine exhibits a feminine balance and refreshing drinkability not often seen from this varietal. Anticipate this wine to age well into the 2020's.

PAIRING: Classic mushroom soup, barbequed short ribs or chili.

