



## Character Red

Vintage: 2018 Price: \$18.99 (BC+tax) CSPC: 158311 UPC: 626990112228

Availability: Winery, online, Bench Club, VQA stores, private liquor stores, restaurants, BCLDB

### HARVEST REPORT:

The 2018 growing season was one of the most tumultuous in the last 20 years, with Growing Degree Days (GDD) totaling 1575, essentially at the 10 year average, however the year was anything but average. The season started slowly with cool spring temperatures delaying our typical budbreak. This was followed by rapid, record setting heat in late April and May with growth going into overdrive and thus flowering occurring earlier than usual. Dry conditions during flowering brought an excellent fruit set with heavy, though well-balanced, bunch development. The early summer months were quite typical for the Okanagan – warm and dry. However, a cool, early fall slowed ripening down. The cooler than normal autumn temperatures allowed grape maturity to finish with elegant acidity, great complexity and fantastic flavour development. With conditions varying considerably throughout the year, viticulturalists needed to adapt management practices quickly, to ensure 2018 would be an exceptional year.

### WINEMAKING:

This vintage of our popular Character Red is crafted with four varieties from our historic vineyard. The blend is comprised of our old vine "Italian clone" Merlot from block 13, Syrah from blocks 11, 18 and 19, Petit Verdot from block 14, and Malbec from block 6. The fruit is all handpicked and sorted prior to a gentle maceration in our red Ganimede fermenters. Following fermentation the individual lots are cross-blended and aged in an equal amount of French and American oak for a well-balanced wine that is a beautiful example of Golden Mile Bench fruit.

### TASTING NOTES:

Our rich and approachable red blend offers heady aromas of violets, white pepper, coffee, dark berries and caramel. This leads to a pleasing palate of allspice, ripe blackberry and blueberry. Undeniably appealing, this wine will shine brightly at the dinner table any night of the week and is great with smoked ribs or pulled pork.

*Our roots run deep with half century old vines, rooted in the Golden Mile Bench's exceptional terroir. Blending sustainable vineyard practices and innovative winemaking, we craft wines of distinction that are an intensely flavoured expression of our historic vineyard.*

### WINEMAKER SPECS:

**Harvest Date:** mid-October, 2018

**Bottling Date:** June 26, 2019

**Blend:** 40% Merlot, 29% Syrah, 14% Petit Verdot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 8% Malbec

**Vegan:** yes

**Aging:** 6-8 months

**Oak:** 50% American, 50% French

**Ageability:** Enjoy now or up to 5 years

**Alc:** 13.8% **RS:** 3 g/L

**pH:** 3.89 **TA:** 6.15 g/L

**Brix at harvest:** 23.7 average

Alc: alcohol | RS: residual sugar | TA: total acidity

HESTER CREEK



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