

# CANOE RIDGE

## VINEYARD

# THE EXPLORER

## 2017 MERLOT

*AS LEGEND HAS IT, explorers Lewis and Clark noticed a ridge resembling an overturned canoe on their Columbia River journey, inspiring our Canoe Ridge Vineyard name. Established in 1989, Canoe Ridge Vineyard is one of Washington State's leading wineries, offering true varietal character made for everyday enjoyment. From our estate vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills to the surrounding Columbia Valley, winemaker Haydn Moat selects from the very best grapes to create each varietal offering.*



### ABOUT THE EXPLORER

For the wine enthusiast with a true Northwest taste for adventure, The Explorer by Canoe Ridge Vineyard reflects the natural beauty and terroir of our Horse Heaven Hills vineyard overlooking the Columbia River.

### TASTING NOTE

Lush and fruit-forward with blackberry and hibiscus tea flavors, finishing with flavors of vanilla that continue on the palate with smooth and refined tannins.

### ABOUT THE VINTAGE

After warmer and larger than average harvests from 2012-2016, this year's growing season and harvest were far more normal. A wet spring led to a dry, warm summer, allowing for excellent fruit development in our vineyards. By harvest, our fruit showed phenolic ripeness with an ideal balance between sugar, acids, and tannin in the fruit skins. The fruit harvested will make for a fine 2017 vintage from Washington. Harvest began during the second week of August with the last of our Cabernet Sauvignon pulled from The Benches Vineyard at Wallula Gap and Skyfall Vineyard on November 2nd.

### APPELLATION

Horse Heaven Hills

### VINEYARDS

100% Canoe Ridge Vineyard

### VARIETY PERCENTAGE

90% Merlot  
10% Cabernet Franc

### HARVEST DATE

September - October 2017

### OAK

100% French Oak

### TA

5.59 g/l

### PH

3.76

### ALC

14.02%