

BENTON HILLS MERLOT 2020

Goose Gap AVA, Columbia Valley, Washington



BENTON HILLS



TASTING NOTES: The 2020 Merlot is rich and velvety with flavors of red berries and cherries with notes of mocha that pairs perfectly with roast chicken, grilled salmon, and medium-bodied cheeses.

VINIFICATION: This Benton Hills Merlot was fermented in stainless steel tanks from vineyard blocks on our east side. The wine was pumped over twice daily to facilitate flavor development and color extraction. The wine was pressed-off after a week-long maceration and allowed to complete malolactic fermentation on oak, softening and polishing the mouthfeel for a smooth, textured wine. The wine spent several months developing on oak before being carefully selected and blended to create the best possible accentuation of the softness and intense fruit character to be found in our estate wines.

INTERESTING FACT: Benton Hills Vineyards is in a premier wine region in southeastern Washington state, comprising several arid southwest sloping hills that are home to many of the Columbia valley's most celebrated vineyards.

STORY: Ancient basalt flows formed a cluster of small mountains with gentle sloping hillsides ideal for growing vinifera grapes. We affectionately refer to them as our Benton Hills.

M.L. Monson brought his family to the Yakima Valley in the early 1900s. He came with a love for the land and the dream of building a family farming business that would continue for generations.

Initially, the focus was on orchards and cattle. In the 1990s, M.L.'s son Arvid began building in a new direction, establishing vineyards in the arid hills and valleys around Richland. This led to the founding of Goose Ridge Estate Vineyard & Winery in 1998.

Through years of remarkable growth and change, the family has remained true to the vision held by M.L. and Arvid Monson, and today Goose Ridge is led by Arvid's three children, Bill, Molly and Valerie.

PRODUCER: Goose Ridge

ALCOHOL: 13.8%

REGION: Goose Gap AVA, Columbia Valley, Washington

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.1 G/L

GRAPE(S): 79% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon

pH: 3.72