

WASHINGTON STATE
CHATEAU STE MICHELLE

Chateau Ste Michelle is clearly recognized as being the key driving force in developing the state of Washington's ranking as the second most important American viticultural region behind California. The state's premium wine identity draws from the uniqueness of its primary appellation, the Columbia Valley. Due to its northerly latitude, climate and soil, the Columbia Valley produces wines with elegance and structure, often compared to European wines. Considering the amount of rainfall this part of the country experiences on the state's western side, climatically this region is greatly divided. The Cascade Mountains absorb the brunt of the rainfall from the western oceanic influence. To the east, you have a climate which is entirely different. It is hot and dry, almost desert like. Throughout the growing season the daytime temperatures average in the upper 80's, which provide the grapes proper sugar and flavor. The nightly temperatures drop between 30-40 degrees. This helps protect the grapes natural acidity and contributes to the development of the wines complexity and balance.

This feature comes with a very special guest. We are pleased to announce the presence of Chateau Ste Michelle's **Master Winemaker Bob Bertheau** at our store on **Thursday evening, March 5th from 5:00 to 7:30**, for a meet and greet informal wine tasting. There will be four tables set up throughout the store with an offering of some of Chateau Ste Michelle's best single vineyard bottlings. This magnificent selection covers a broad range of styles that puts forward a great expression of the over forty years of Chateau Ste Michelle's accomplishments in the A.V.A. of Washington State.

It has been common practice in our correspondences to avoid the use of winemaker notes. This allows us to bring forward a more consistent and objective view. However, seeing as Bob Bertheau will be contributing his time directly to this featured subject, it would only be fitting to apply his unique and insightful thoughts into this article.

These Special price offerings are good throughout the month of March.



100% Riesling



The wine delivers mandarin orange and sweet lime aromas and flavors with subtle mineral notes. The cooler September, along with selecting fruit from higher elevation and cooler sites, contributed to the mouth-watering acidity balanced by beautiful Washington Riesling fruit.

\$21.99

100% Horse Heaven Sauvignon Blanc



Delivers aromas of white grapefruit, lime and grass. Partial stainless steel fermentation preserves the delicate varietal character and fresh, crisp quality. Smaller crop loads, larger canopies and picking the fruit slightly earlier during harvest all achieved a more varietal green, grassy character and helped us push the Sauvignon Blanc in the direction we want to go.

\$14.99

2006 INDIAN WELLS CHARDONNAY

100% Chardonnay



The warmth of the Wahluke Slope consistently produces Chardonnays with an appealing tropical fruit character. The 2006 bottling delivers pineapple, butterscotch and vanilla aromas with notes of brown sugar and spice. The Indian Wells Chardonnay is soft and rich yet maintains a beautiful elegance.

\$16.99

2005 INDIAN WELLS MERLOT

87% Merlot, 13% Syrah

Displays ripe black fruit aromas and jammy flavors typical of Wahluke Slope reds. This is a full bodied, fruity style of warm climate Merlot with a round, soft finish. Wahluke Slope Syrah was added to the blend to enhance the mouthfeel and jammy fruit character.

\$16.99

CANOE RIDGE ESTATE

2005 MERLOT

98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon



The Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot is a refined and elegant Merlot with plenty of Washington concentration. The 2005 bottling exhibits complex aromas of black cherries and spice with dusty, restrained tannins. This is a medium-bodied versatile wine with food and will not overwhelm your meal or your palate, just your taste buds.

\$19.99

2005 INDIAN WELLS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Syrah

The wine exudes sweet blackberry pie and vanilla aromas and flavors with loads of complexity. This is our big bold, obvious Cabernet and after just two vintages, it has quickly become a fan favorite. Wonderful Cab from such esteemed growers as Indian Wells, Jones, Washington Fruit and even Cold Creek Vineyard are woven together with a little Syrah to make a wine that says boldly, "I'm from Washington".

\$17.99

COLD CREEK VINEYARD

2005 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

100% Cabernet Sauvignon



Cabernet from this 30-year-old vineyard always delivers power, structure and rich concentrated black fruit. The 2005 bottling offers dense aromas of boysenberry and brown sugar spice with layers of fruit with nicely integrated, yet very age-worthy, tannins. This is classic Cold Creek, and classic Washington state Cabernet.

\$24.99

2005 ETHOS SYRAH

100% Syrah

As the pinnacle tier for Chateau Ste. Michelle, the Ethos Syrah offers a rich mouthful of jammy blackberry fruit with layers of complexity and depth. Washington is an ideal growing region for Rhone varietals and we are able to grow different styles of Syrah. The Ethos Syrah could be classified as an Hermitage style.

\$24.99

