

Helix 2016 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Viognier, *Columbia Valley*



DESCRIPTION

“Our Viognier stainless steel style accentuates the relationship between fruit and soil. 2016 was a very warm growing season, with moderating fall temperatures emphasizing Stillwater Creek’s tendency for protracted ripening. Together, the vintage and vineyard developed a rich, concentrated Viognier with stunning aromatics. There are fragrant scents of orange blossoms and orchard tree blossoms, guava, white pear and a wisp of cotton candy. The palate has incredible depth and texture with pleasing weightiness. It boasts flavors of tangerine, mango, apricot, honeysuckle and delicate shavings of toffee and beeswax that are layered on a fine base of mineral-basalt. This 2016 Helix vintage is a sumptuous presentation of Viognier!~ *Chuck Reininger, Winemaker*

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Blend: 100% Viognier

Alc.: 14.2%

Bottled: March 2017

Cases Produced: 120

pH: 3.58

Cooperage: Stainless Steel

TA: 5.9 g/L

Release: Summer 2018

Drink Between: 2018-2024

THE VINEYARDS

STILLWATER CREEK Stillwater Creek Vineyard is a 235-acre site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills. Planted in 2000 on a steep, south-facing slope with one of the most diverse clone selections in Washington State, Stillwater Creek quickly has earned a reputation as one of the Columbia Valley’s top vineyards. In March 2007, Stillwater Creek was the first Columbia Valley vineyard certified “Salmon Safe” by Seattle’s Stewardship Partners for environmental practices that help protect water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife, particularly native Northwest salmon.

HISTORY OF HELIX VIOGNIER

The first vintage of a single varietal Helix Viognier was in 2011 sourced from Stillwater Creek Vineyard. Although a single varietal Viognier is a recent addition to the Helix brand, Chuck Reininger has been sourcing Viognier from Stillwater Creek dating back to 2004 to produce a Chardonnay/Viognier blend called *Aspersa*. Today, Chuck Reininger produces Viognier exclusively under the Helix label, but there was a Walla Walla Valley Viognier produced in 2010, as well as two late harvest Viognier vintages under the REININGER label.

HELIX WINES — MORE TO EXPLORE

Helix Wines are the culmination of a long, storied family history in the Washington and Oregon wine and agriculture industries and a reflection of our family's belief that farming and winemaking is all about discovery. Helix wines are produced by the same family who create REININGER at our Walla Walla Valley winery. Named for a farmstead in Helix, Oregon, where our grandparents met, married, and farmed, Helix is truly a reflection of our family’s pioneering background and strong sense of place. Since the first Helix vintage in 2002, our goal is to explore the diverse and unbounded Columbia Valley and to see for ourselves what the Columbia Valley vineyards are capable of producing.