



# WOODWARD CANYON

EST. 1981

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

## 2018 NELMS ROAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

In 1998, Woodward Canyon Winery began producing wines under its second label, Nelms Road. Nelms Road offers a Cabernet Sauvignon produced from Walla Walla Valley and Washington State grapes. It was developed to produce delicious and affordable red wine from younger vineyards and surplus lots of Woodward Canyon production. While this wine was produced to be enjoyed now, it will improve with additional time in bottle. With proper storage this wine should easily age five years or longer.

### VINEYARDS

#### Champoux Vineyard (44%)

Champoux was founded in 1972 by Don Mercer and originally called Mercer Ranch Vineyards. In 1996 Paul and Judy Champoux along with fellow Washington State producers Woodward Canyon, Powers Winery, Quilceda Creek Winery, and Andrew Will Winery invested with Paul and Judy to purchase from the Mercers. Champoux Vineyard is located above the Columbia River within the Horse Heaven Hills AVA. The original Cabernet Sauvignon plantings of the famed "Block One" are regarded as being among the oldest and finest in Washington State and are one of the key components of our "Old Vines" Cabernet Sauvignon. Malaga gravelly fine sandy loam over lacustrine deposits, glacial outwash. Slope 3%, 650ft elevation.

#### Woodward Canyon Estate Vineyard (43%)

Established in 1976, Woodward Canyon is the westernmost vineyard in Walla Walla Valley AVA, roughly 15 miles west of Walla Walla Washington. There are 41 acres in vineyard and several more acres of green belts that support native species such as western juniper, ponderosa pine, western sagebrush, arrowleaf balsamroot and perennial wildflowers. Ritzville silt loam over fractured basalt, slope 15-18%, 750-850ft elevation. Managed by Woodward Canyon. All grapes are Salmon Safe certified as is the wine.

#### Spring Creek Vineyard (9%)

Spring Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon was planted in 1996 and 1997. The vineyard (elevation 1130 ft.) is located at the base of Rattlesnake Mountain, 5 miles north-west of Benton City, WA, and 5 miles west of the Red Mountain AVA. The soils in this area are shallow and very rocky (broken basalt), resulting in naturally low yielding grapevines. Grape clusters from Spring Creek are typically smaller and later ripening due to the elevation and climate in this area. All of these factors combine to produce wines that are concentrated, higher in acidity and lower in pH and alcohol.

#### Sagemoor Vineyard (4%)

Founded in 1968, Sagemoor Vineyards was a pioneering effort that helped establish the Washington State wine industry. Its early vineyards are among the oldest plantings of vinifera grapes in the state. Rick began using Sagemoor fruit in his home winemaking days and we continue to use it today. A significant number of 1972 plantings are still producing our "Old Vines" Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from specific rows in Blocks 3 and 9. Quincy loamy fine sand, Sagehill very fine sandy loam, 2-10% slope. 572ft elevation.

### TASTING NOTES

This new bottling of Nelms Road Cabernet Sauvignon reflects the 2018 vintage well. The younger vines from select vineyards continue to produce better grapes allowing us to produce better wine nearly every year. Add to that some truly phenomenal press wine from some of the oldest and most celebrated vineyards in Washington State, and we can produce exceptional cabernet sauvignon at a very impressive price. The warm growing conditions of 2018 gave enticing aromas of black current, olive, spices, tobacco, and lead pencil. The wine is deep red in color. In the mouth the wine offers savory blackberry fruit, mature tannins, beautiful texture, and a long generous finish; the wine is in brilliant proportion. With proper storage, this wine should easily age five years or longer. This red wine would be fantastic with wood-fired pizza, roasted meats, and aged cheese.



### WINE DATA

#### Varietal composition:

78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot,  
6% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot,  
2% Mourvedre

**Alcohol:** 14.2%

**Bottling Date:** March 4, 2020

**Release Date:** July 2020

**MSRP:** \$25

**Case Production:** 2903 cases

### WINEMAKING

Hand harvested and sorted

Neutral French barrels, 18 months

Spontaneous malolactic fermentation