

# Maltos Malbec

## 20th Anniversary Edition

LABEL: SMALL LOT

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2022



*In celebration of our 20th anniversary at Mercer Wine Estates, we are proud to introduce the “Maltos” Malbec. This special blend honors Michael Maltos, an invaluable member of our winery since its inception. Michael’s loyalty and joy have been evident as he progressed through every role, and today as our esteemed Cellar Master, he leads the cellar team in crafting the world-class Mercer wines you enjoy.*  
-Rob & Brenda Mercer

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The bouquet is vibrant and inviting, offering notes of fresh red fruits - ripe strawberry, and dark cherry are immediately apparent. On the palate, the fruit flavors are lush, layered with a warm spiced undertone of clove that intertwines with caramel. The wine has a refined structure with dusty tannins, balanced acidity, and a long finish.

### VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Spice Cabinet vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. This vineyard sits on a southeast slope above the Columbia River. The orientation of the block allows for morning sun exposure of the fruit, while avoiding the intense afternoon rays.

### GROWING SEASON

The 2022 vintage started out cool and wet. A mid-April blizzard caused bud break to be behind by two to three weeks. The delayed timeline carried all the way through harvest. Warmer than normal temperatures in September and October, and the lack of end of harvest frost allowed for longer hang time and flavor development during the hot, but brief harvest.

### WINEMAKING

These grapes were harvested and sorted in the vineyards with the selective harvester on our Pellenc harvesters. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole berry as possible. At the winery, individual lots were fermented in open top fermenters. Twice daily punchdowns allowed gentle extraction of color and tannins. After fermentation, the wine was racked to 35% new American oak for malolactic fermentation. The wine was barrel aged for 18 months.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills  
Blend: 98% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Alcohol: 14.3%  
T.A: 0.49 g/100 ml  
pH: 3.86

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