

# ROYAL SLOPE RED WINE

2020

In 2020 I was inspired to do something to acknowledge the contributions of the vineyard workers to the Washington wine industry.

Ed Kelly, the vineyard manager at Stillwater creek and his assistant Dennis Bonilla donated a ton and a half of Merlot grapes to me for harvest of 2020 with the intention that the proceeds from bottle sales would go back to help vineyard workers in some capacity.

I tried to make the wine as deliciously but as cheaply as possible to maximize the proceeds I could pass on to the vineyard folks. We hand-sorted the stems and jacks out of the fermenter and I raised the wine in 5 old French oak barrels using a little bit of Baer Cabernet Sauvignon for topping. The blend is 92% Merlot 8% Cab but I call it 2020 Royal Slope Red Wine because customers are still so weird about the word Merlot.

For the label, I commissioned Christie Tirado, a printmaker in Yakima, to make a linoleum block print based on a photo I had taken of vineyard workers picking my fruit. I bought American made glass and used TCA free DIAM cork closures. We bottled the 2020 in May of 2022. I have the 2021 Royal Slope Red Wine and now the newly pressed 2022 Royal Slope Red Wine both in barrel. I am committed to this project going forward.



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## APPELLATION

Royal Slope

## VARIETAL

92% Merlot,  
8% Cabernet  
Sauvignon

## VINEYARDS

Stillwater Creek

## BARRELS

neutral French oak

## AGING

18 months in barrel  
6 months in bottle

## ALCOHOL

14.6%

## CASES PRODUCED

130