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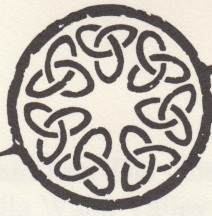
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# SEVEN HILLS WINERY

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## **Seven Hills Winery Vineyard & Grower Portfolio**

### **Philosophy**

Over the course of two decades, Seven Hills Winery founder and winemaker Casey McClellan has worked to cultivate long-term relationships with the finest growers in the Northwest—growers who share his unwavering commitment to quality. As a result, he has established one of the most exceptional vineyard programs in the region. This program combines fruit from Seven Hills Winery's own McClellan Estate Vineyard with top vineyard sources in both Washington and Oregon. Though these sites reflect the rich diversity of Northwest winegrowing, they often share many important attributes; including older vines, well-drained soils, uninhibited light exposure, good air drainage and southwest-facing slopes (for most red varietals). Because the sites in the Seven Hills Winery vineyard program embody numerous appellations and microclimates, the winery has access to an array of excellent fruit in even the most challenging vintages. Just as important, because these sites offer diverse expressions of terroir, Casey is able to draw from a complex palette of grapes to create Seven Hills' benchmark wines.

## **Walla Walla Valley Vineyards**

### **McClellan Estate Vineyard - Planted 2003**

Though still in its relative youth, McClellan Estate Vineyard is quickly emerging as one of Walla Walla Valley's elite sources for Bordeaux-varietal grapes. Building on four generations of farming experience, the vineyard was planted by the McClellan and Brown families. McClellan Estate is directly adjacent to the oldest block of Walla Walla's iconic Seven Hills Vineyard, which Casey helped to plant in 1982. The benchland site is at an elevation of approximately 900 feet and features deep silt-loam soils. Only 20 acres of the property are currently under vine. The remainder is cultivated by the McClellan and Brown families as an apple orchard. Of the vinifera plantings, the majority are Cabernet Sauvignon, with smaller blocks of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon is on a Hart-McClellan modified Geneva double curtain, while the other varietals are trellised using vertical shoot positioning. The families are meticulously farming the site to build strength and structure into the vines. As part of the long-term vision that guides the farming of McClellan Estate, the vineyard is both LIVE and Salmon Safe certified, and meets the criteria for VINEA sustainable growing. The first vineyard-designate bottling from McClellan Estate was a 2005 Petit Verdot. Estate grapes also contribute to Seven Hill Winery's Pentad blend and Columbia Valley Cabernet, adding powerful aromatics, elegant structure, and deep-soil inspired notes of dried herbs and intense fruit.

### **Seven Hills Vineyard - Planted 1980-1989**

Though the McClellans no longer own Seven Hills Vineyard, Seven Hills Winery is proud to make wines using fruit from the coveted "Old Block" of the property. Recognized as one of the Walla Walla Valley's grand cru sites, Seven Hills Vineyard was originally planted by the

McClellan and Hendricks families. The vines nurtured on the prized Old Block are the oldest in the southern half of the Walla Walla Valley appellation (AVA). The site is located at the south end of the valley on deep silt-loam soils, with a very slight north-facing slope. The Old Block is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, both of which are trellised using vertical shoot positioning. Yields for these old vines are often less than 2.5 tons per acre. With the exception of two vintages affected by severe freezes, Seven Hills Winery has crafted vineyard-designate bottlings or reserve wines from this storied fruit every year since 1988. The Cabernet Sauvignon from Seven Hills Vineyard is acclaimed for its signature flavors of blackberry, bramble and plum, as well as its savory herb and bitter almond elements. The Merlot displays beautiful structure, elegance and striking violet and tobacco leaf notes.

#### **Windrow Vineyard - Planted 1986-1998**

Windrow Vineyard is contiguous to both McClellan Estate and Seven Hills Vineyard. While it shares many factors with these great Walla Walla Valley vineyards, it offers more natural diversity with elevations ranging up to 1,000 feet on the benchtop. As a result, the property offers a variety of exposures, as well as flat and sloping terrain. The main varietals at Windrow are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Malbec, and the soil is Ellisforde-silt loam. Seven Hills Winery has been sourcing fruit from Windrow since 1996. These grapes, which are notable for their complexity and structure, play an important role in the Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Two of Seven Hills Winery's rare reserve wines have also emphasized Windrow grapes. There have been only six Reserve Cabernet bottling in the history of the winery.

#### **Minnick Hills Vineyard - Planted 2001**

Minnick Hills Vineyard was planted on the Minnick family's century-old farm, by the fifth generation to work the land. The property is located 15 miles northeast of Seven Hills Winery on the north side of the valley. It is situated on a southward-facing exposed slope at approximately 1,100 feet. This location encourages the necessary air movement to protect the vines during cold spells. The soil is lighter silt-loess, interwoven with volcanic ash, and has been planted to Carmenere, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Fruit from this vineyard is beautifully concentrated and very expressive, and has played a role in Seven Hills Winery's Malbec and Walla Walla Valley blends.

#### **Double River Ranch - Planted 1999**

In 2000, Seven Hills Winery established the first block of Tempranillo in the Walla Walla Valley AVA at Double River Ranch. The ranch features a mid-valley location and is the only vineyard that Seven Hills Winery works with that has slack-water terrace soils. This silty, deposited sediment bench is located at approximately 800 feet. The small-berried clone #1 Tempranillo fruit from this prized one-acre block of Double River produces grapes with rich color, good structure and signature notes of black cherry and smoke. This fruit contributes to both the Walla Walla Valley Tempranillo and the Columbia Valley Tempranillo.

### **Red Mountain**

#### **Artz Vineyard - Planted 1999-continuing**

Artz vineyard is owned and managed by Fred Artz, who was the vineyard manager at the famed (and adjoining) Klipsun Vineyard for over a decade. Fred is one of Washington's most respected vineyard managers, and Artz Vineyard is a perfect example of why. The vineyard is located on

the lower slopes of Red Mountain at an elevation of about 600 feet, overlooking the Yakima River. The soils are silty sand overlaying basalt outcropping, and the facing is northwesterly. Even though the location is hot, windy and dry, Fred works to stress the vineyard's Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot vines. As a result, the grapes from Artz are often the most full-bodied and structured fruit sourced by Seven Hills. The Merlot consistently shows huge red raspberry and ripe jam layers, while the Cabernet displays dense black fruit character and bold structure.

#### **Klipsun Vineyard - Planted 1987-continuing**

Seven Hills Winery discovered Klipsun Vineyard in 1989, while looking for distinctive vineyards in microclimates outside the Walla Walla Valley AVA. Klipsun, which was one of the first vineyards on Red Mountain, is situated at approximately 700 feet on a west-southwest-facing slope, where it benefits from the full heat of the day. At Klipsun, frequent winds encourage the grapes to form thick skins, and concentration in the fruit is intensified through evaporation. A combination of natural forces and careful viticulture produces Cabernet Sauvignon with stunning, terroir-driven dusty aromatics and exceptional ripe fruit elements. Seven Hills Winery has produced an unbroken line of Klipsun Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignons since 1991.

#### **Ciel du Cheval Vineyard - Planted late 1970s**

Ciel du Cheval is farmed by Jim Holmes, who has three decades of winegrowing experience on Red Mountain. Jim is one of the most knowledgeable and respected growers in Washington, and Ciel du Cheval is widely recognized as one of the state's great vineyards. The vineyard sits on a gentle, southwest-facing slope of Red Mountain, with a vista of the Horse Heaven Hills to the south—thus the name. The site features sandy silt soils over basalt. Seven Hills Winery sources fan-trained Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc from Ciel du Cheval, as well as Merlot and Petit Verdot. Though Red Mountain is an appellation known for producing wines of great power, Ciel du Cheval's older and fan-trained vines add additional layers of grace and complexity. Seven Hills Winery has been making a Ciel du Cheval vintage red wine since 2001.

### **Wahluke Slope**

#### **Clifton Vineyard - Planted 2000**

Wahluke Slope is located approximately 150 miles north and slightly west of Walla Walla. Because the slope is a huge south-facing glacial moraine covered with sand and silt, the soils drain incredibly well. Located at approximately 700 feet overlooking the magnificent basalt cliffs that edge the Columbia River, Clifton Vineyard is on a slight slope with almost pure sand soils. The vineyard is owned by the Milbrandt brothers, and is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon. The sandy, desert conditions allow for complete control of water and ideal ripening. Against a spectacular backdrop of dramatic cliffs, Clifton offers a warm, fruitful growing environment that produces lush flavors and a moderately tannic core. Clifton contributes to Seven Hills Winery's Columbia Valley Appellation wines.

#### **Talcott Vineyard - Planted mid-1990s**

Like Clifton Vineyard, Talcott is farmed by the Milbrandt brothers. But unlike Clifton, Talcott is planted to Viognier. Talcott is located up on a cooler, almost flat, south-facing part of the Wahluke Slope, five miles from Clifton. Its soil structure is deeper, with more silt, which allows for pure flavor development in the grapes. In addition, expert canopy management lets an ideal

amount of sunlight onto the fruit, while still protecting the grapes from the intensity of the desert sun. Seven Hills Winery has been sourcing Viognier from this site since 2001. These grapes offer incredibly expressive aromatics, good acidity and structure, and lovely honeysuckle and white peach flavors.

## **Columbia Valley**

### **Evergreen Vineyard - Planted 2002**

Evergreen is the most northern vineyard that Seven Hills Winery works with. As a result, this cliff-top site can be quite cool. Located at approximately 1,200 feet, Evergreen is farmed by the Milbrandt brothers, and features glacial deposits with mixed rock and silica. These conditions have proven ideal for the vineyard's Riesling vines. The vines receive great light and the vineyard benefits from good air drainage—a must during cold spells. The unique terroir of Evergreen consistently produces Riesling with sophisticated wet slate minerality, grapefruit and green apple flavors, and enticing notes of honeysuckle. Seven Hills has been working with fruit from Evergreen since 2005, and the grapes contribute to its Columbia Valley Riesling.

### **Willard Vineyard - Planted 1979**

For 30 years Jim Willard has been farming his Riesling vines on a southeast-facing slope in the lower Yakima Valley, giving this vineyard exceptional vine age and continuity. The soils are well-draining sandy silt, and the vineyard benefits from great light and good air drainage. As a result, these low-yielding vines deliver ripe, concentrated Riesling flavors, while still retaining excellent acidity. This prized fruit is used in the Columbia Valley Riesling, where it contributes signature flavors of peach, apricot and honeysuckle.

## **Umpqua Valley**

### **Melrose Vineyard - Planted mid 1990s**

Melrose Vineyard is farmed by the Parker family. Its Umpqua Valley location has proven ideal for growing standout Pinot Gris. The Umpqua River draws in morning fog and maritime influences from the Pacific, which then give way to warm afternoon sun. The site's vines are planted in river-bottom land on a Scott Henry-trained system with a huge vertical canopy. These factors, combined with significantly less rain than other Western Oregon winegrowing regions, produce consistently ripe grapes with enticing citrus, spearmint and melon elements. These grapes are used in the Oregon Pinot Gris.