

Merlot

LABEL: SMALL LOT

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2020



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Aromas and flavors of black cherry and blackberry are backed by vanilla and nutmeg. The elegant tannin structure and balanced acidity of this wine round the palate out and give a nice foundation for an exquisite finish.

VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Spice Cabinet and Zephyr Ridge Vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills. The fruit is exposed to dappled sunlight, allowing for uniform ripening and flavor development. Well balanced crop levels have allowed us to create wines with great depth and concentration.

GROWING SEASON

The 2020 vintage started out cooler than normal, but temperatures quickly warmed up in August. Because of the warmer temperatures, crop yields were lower. Along with the lower crop yields, the grapes were able to develop concentrated and vibrant flavors.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested and sorted in the vineyards with our "Selective Harvester" to allow for maximum hangtime and flavor development. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole-berry as possible. We fermented the fruit in a combination of stainless steel tanks and open top fermenters. The tank portion received twice daily pumpovers and rack & returns to control extraction and flavors. The open top fermenters were treated with twice daily punchdowns. After fermentation, the wine was racked to 50% new American Oak Barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was barrel aged for 20 months.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 77% Merlot, 11% Syrah, 10% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 14.5%

T.A: 0.53 g/100 ml

pH: 3.95

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2020:

90 pts - James Suckling

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2019:

Gold - San Francisco Chronicle

95 pts - Great Northwest Wines

Dbl Platinum - Great Northwest Wines

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2018:

Best of Class - San Francisco Chronicle

90 pts - James Suckling

90 pts - Wine Spectator

95 pts - Great Northwest Wines

Dbl Platinum - Great Northwest Wines