

Merlot

LABEL: SMALL LOT

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2021



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The bouquet opens with inviting aromas of dark cherry, complemented by fresh strawberry and ripe blackberry notes. Subtle hints of barrel spice add a layer of intrigue. On the palate, the wine showcases a balance of ripe cherry, raspberry & strawberry flavors. The full-bodied structure is supported by velvety tannins that provide a firm yet smooth mouthfeel.

VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Estate 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 2021 vintage was warmer than average. We experienced extremely high temperatures in June and July. The crop was lighter than expected with smaller clusters and lower numbers of berries. Mid to late October brought rain, but fortunately for us we were able to bring in all the fruit before the rain. Our 2021 vintage is highly concentrated, and although a lighter yield year, it will be one for the books.

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 stainless steel tanks with twice daily pumpovers. After fermentation, the wine was racked to 39% New French Oak Barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was barrel aged for 18 months.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 14.9%

T.A: 0.45 g/100 ml

pH: 3.89

UPC: 898012002514

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2020:

James Suckling - 90 pts

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2019:

Wine Spectator - 90 pts

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2018:

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition - Best of Class

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