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2007 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

VINTAGE

Due to an unusual spring heat wave just before bloom, berries were smaller-than-average in 2007, adding concentration and flavor to the grapes. Good set after bloom, ideal summer conditions, followed by the Columbia Valley's typical fall weather pattern of warm days and cool nights, ripened grapes slowly and evenly. The resulting wines have excellent natural acidity and deep, intense flavor.

VINEYARDS

One of the advantages of having made wine in the Columbia Valley since the mid-1980s is the opportunity it's given me to work with some of the most dedicated growers in the industry. Our Columbia Valley wines are made from a short list of vineyards I consider to be among the best in the state. The diversity of these vineyards-representing many of the most mature, carefully managed sites in Washington-provides for a full range of fruit expression that allows me to craft complex, multi-layered wines true to Columbia Valley *terroir* as well as the varietal character of the grapes. Our 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon includes grapes from Champoux, Klipsun, Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain and Weinbau vineyards.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins for an average of eight days. After being pressed off, the wine was aged for 20 months in primarily new French Oak barrels to improve its already lengthy finish. Racking the wine every four months created pliant tannins and a bold, stylish structure.

TASTING NOTES

This dark, full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon is packed with cassis, blackberry, dark cocoa and warm vanilla notes in the nose. It lingers across the palate, imparting a long, polished finish that was developed in part from aging in new French oak barrels.



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity0.54g/100ml
 pH.....3.68
 Blend...93% Cabernet Sauvignon
 3%Merlot
 2%Cabernet Franc
 2% Malbec
 Cases.....1668
 Bottling Date..... June 16, 2009

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker