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2010 Columbia Valley Red Wine

VINTAGE

The 2010 Columbia Valley growing season was comparable to 1999, a cooler than average vintage that produced wines with excellent color, flavor and varietal character. Spring temperatures were moderate and stayed that way through the summer and early fall, with the warm weather finally arriving in late September just in time to finish ripening the grapes to produce this delicious, balanced wine.

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 2010 Red Wine includes grapes from Champoux, Ciel du Cheval, Lewis, Red Mountain, Alder Ridge, Conner Lee and Weinbau vineyards.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins for eight days. After being pressed off, this wine was aged for 22 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

The nose is brimming with Rainier cherry, vanilla and rich dark chocolate. Medium full on the palate with an elegant, lively mouth-feel and a balanced finish packed with fresh berry and cherry.



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....0.55g/100ml

pH.....3.70

Blend... .. 59% Merlot
 16% Cabernet Franc
 11% Cabernet Sauvignon
 7% Malbec
 7% Syrah

Cases.....1083

Bottling Date.....August 23, 2012

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker