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2009 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

VINTAGE

The spring of 2009 was cooler and wetter than usual delaying bud break by a few weeks, but cool weather worries quickly subsided with the arrival of warm, dry weather in June. Temperatures continued to climb in July and stayed warm through August. Ideal weather conditions in September and into early October ripened grapes beautifully at a record pace resulting in a short, compressed harvest that wrapped up just before an unusual early fall freeze hit the Columbia Valley on October 10th.

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. During all that time, Champoux Vineyard has stood at the top of the list of outstanding vineyards in Washington State. Located in the Horse Heavens, this vineyard consistently produces wines with exceptional depth, complexity, and elegance.

WINEMAKING

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

TASTING NOTES

Made from what is arguably Washington State's best vineyard for the variety, the Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is a sleek and powerful wine. The nose reveals plush cherry, blackberry, chocolate and cassis. It lingers over the palate with supple, well balanced tannins. This wine is poised for a long life in your cellar.



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity	0.56g/100ml
pH.....	3.66
Alcohol.....	14.4
Blend... ..	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases.....	372
Bottling Date.....	July 9, 2010

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker