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2011 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

VINTAGE

The 2011 vintage will be remembered as a cooler year and later harvest than is typical of the Columbia Valley that produced aromatic, flavorful wines with good acidity. The season started slowly with June and July temperatures cooler than usual, but August conditions were similar to a typical year; and a heat wave in September allowed the grapes to finish off ripening nicely. The result: delicious wines notable for expressive varietal character.

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 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon includes grapes from Weinbau, Ciel du Cheval, Red Heaven, Red Mountain, and Shaw 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 rich, full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon is brimming with cassis, raspberry, cocoa and warm vanilla notes in the nose. Its texture is amazingly supple and 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 Acidity.....0.55g/100ml
 pH.....3.71
 Blend.....87% Cabernet Sauvignon
 7%Merlot
 4%Cabernet Franc
 2% Malbec
 Cases.....2,101
 Bottling Date.....June 12, 2012

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker