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2012 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

VINTAGE

After two cooler than normal vintages, the 2012 vintage more closely resembled what is typical of the Columbia Valley. Though the temperatures were relatively cool in the spring of 2012, summer temperatures were warm and remarkably consistent. The ideal weather continued through harvest and allowed us to produce aromatic, flavorful wines with good acidity. Expect the wines from this vintage to be long-lived and incredibly well-balanced.

VINEYARD

One characteristic contributing to the great success of Ciel du Cheval Vineyard is the high pH found in the loam topsoil of Red Mountain, courtesy of the calcium carbonate deposits left by the ancient Spokane floods. Temperatures in the vineyard rarely reach above 95°F, which is ideal for vine development and fruit ripening. In fact, with just less than 3,000 “degree days” per growing season and as much as 3 more hours of sunlight per day than the Napa region, owner Jim Holmes is able to grow grapes with great concentration and balance.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins for 7 days. At that point, the wine was pressed off and aged for 21 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 Columbia Valley is wonderfully suited to ripen Cabernet Sauvignon, and Ciel du Cheval Vineyard on Red Mountain gets it right every year. Pure notes of black cherry, black currant, mineral, mocha and spice radiate from the glass. The layered, full palate offers a seamless mix of dark fruit, spice and classic Red Mountain AVA terroir. This bold, balanced wine is built for cellaring.



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....	0.56g/100ml
pH.....	3.62
Alcohol.....	14.4%
Blend.....	80% Cabernet Sauvignon 20% Merlot
Cases.....	218
Bottling Date.....	June 26, 2014

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker