



2013 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Petit Verdot

VINTAGE

Over the course of the last few vintages, the Columbia Valley has seen a shift from two of this decade's cooler vintages in 2010 and 2011 to the warmest vintage of the last ten years in 2013. An early bud break was followed by warm temperatures that persisted through August. Harvest started earlier than normal but cool September temperatures slowed ripening considerably, and most grapes benefited from the drawn-out hang time that occurred because of these cooler temperatures.

VINEYARDS

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 normally do not 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 seven days. After being pressed off, this wine was aged for 21 months in 50% new French Oak barrels and the remainder in once used French Oak barrels to improve its already lengthy finish. Racking the wine every five months created pliant tannins and a bold, stylish structure.

TASTING NOTES

Ciel du Cheval Vineyard produces a Petit Verdot with classic aromatics of blackberry, mocha and spice. It is well focused on the palate with a rich core of dark berries and chocolate leading to a layered, long finish.



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....	0.55g/100ml
pH.....	3.76
Alcohol.....	14.4%
Blend.....	97% Petit Verdot 2% Cabernet Sauvignon 1% Cabernet Franc
Cases.....	122
Bottling Date.....	August 6, 2015

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker