



Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

COLUMBIA VALLEY

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Cassis and toasted oak mingle with ripe cherry and cocoa in the nose and continue on the palate with additional complexities of forest floor, sweet earth and spice revealed with air. Textured, full-bodied and long; supple tannins support the fruit which is framed by fresh acidity. Approachable and elegant upon release, this wine will age nicely and increasingly show its depth and additional complexities over time. Drink now or through 2017.

VITICULTURIST'S NOTES

The 2008 growing season was exceptional, allowing for a unique blend consisting of proportioned sampling of our top red wine appellations. Horse Heaven Hills contributed 44%, complimented by 32% Columbia Valley and 24% Wahluke Slope fruit which completed the blend. These are all vineyards from which our winemaker has had a long history of making award winning wines. The dark color and supple mouth feel of the Columbia and Wahluke fruit accents the distinctive chocolate and leather structure of the Horse Heaven Hills fruit. Enjoy the uniqueness of the 2008 blend while it lasts.

GROWING SEASON

A warm, early spring lead to early bud-break which quickly increased sugar levels. Patience and experience were required to achieve full physiological ripeness, especially in early ripening varieties like Merlot that contributed to this blend. The later ripening Cabernet Sauvignon slowly matured in the cool, late October weather allowing for a much broader harvesting window than the early ripening Merlot.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were harvested at their peak providing an excellent balance of sugar, fruit flavor, acid and ripe tannins. The blocks were individually harvested over several weeks and fermented separately to preserve the individual character of the vineyards. Soon after pressing the wines were put through a malolactic fermentation to soften the wine and then went to American and French Oak barrels for 18 months of aging.

MERCER ESTATES

Mercer Estates is dedicated to producing distinctive wines through equal passions for grape growing and winemaking. With over 100 years of agricultural history in Horse Heaven Hills, Yakima Valley and Columbia Valley; we employ award winning, sustainable farming practices that ensure our wines express the true character of our vineyards. Get to know our winemaking families at www.mercerwine.com.

"Two spirited wine growing families that embody the flavor and soul of their lands".

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation Columbia Valley
Blend 90% Cabernet Sauvignon,
5% Merlot, 4% Syrah, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol 14.5%
T.A. 0.52 g/100 mL
pH 3.85

