



Sauvignon Blanc 2010

COLUMBIA VALLEY

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Complex varietal characteristics of ripe melon, herb, cut grass, sage and tobacco abound in the nose presented with excellent purity of fruit. In the mouth, the wine has good body, fresh acidity and lift on the finish, lingering with flavors of kiwi, melon and herbs.

VITICULTURIST'S NOTES

Grapes came primarily from our growing partners, Sagemoor Farms and Desert Wind Vineyards, located in the Columbia Valley and Wahluke Slope appellations respectively. These warmer sites delivered ripe fruit in what was a cool and wet year.

GROWING SEASON

The 2010 vintage was cooler and wetter than normal, requiring extra work in the vineyards to produce the ripe flavors and aromas we're looking for. We employed methods such as leaf thinning and green harvesting to encourage airflow and direct sunlight on the grape clusters, discouraging Botrytis mold and creating favorable conditions for ripening. Our hard work paid off and allowed for long hang time and slow, steady development of varietal character.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested in the cool of night and went directly to press, without crushing, where they were gently pressed to minimize extraction of bitter compounds from the skins. The juice was inoculated with VL3 yeast which emphasizes the wild Sauvignon character. Approximately 15% of the juice was fermented and aged for seven months in new American Oak barrels adding a nice spice and structure to the wine. The balance of the juice (85%) was fermented cool, in stainless steel tanks, to help preserve varietal flavors then blended and finished with Stelvin screwcap to maintain fruit integrity.

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 100% Sauvignon Blanc
Alcohol 13.4%
T.A. 0.61 g/100 mL
pH 3.11

