

2012
CAVALIE
 HORSE HEAVEN HILLS
 Bordeaux Blend



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The powerful Merlot is evident in this blend, which opens with aromas of ripe blueberries wrapped in the warmth of caramel and coffee. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot create a frame of structure, while the Malbec adds suppleness, weight and length. This rich wine is full of intriguing complexity built around sleek tannins that lead into a finish that goes on and on.

VINEYARD SOURCE

The majority of the fruit for this wine is grown at our estate Big Tee Pee Vineyard and Zephyr Ridge Vineyard, both in the Horse Heaven Hills. These established blocks of Cabernet and Merlot produce concentrated wines with intense fruit flavors and aromas.

GROWING SEASON

2012 was slightly warmer than average. We started the season off with a cool March that rolled into a warm April and May. Despite cooler temperatures in June, above average temperatures in July and August allowed for even ripening, controlled canopy growth and reduced pest and disease pressure. A warm, dry September allowed for longer hang time of the grapes, which contributed to concentrated flavor development along with ripe tannins.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was machine harvested with our 'Selective Harvest' attachment, allowing the fruit to be sorted in the vineyard. We bypassed the destemmer at the winery to maintain as much whole-berry as possible. The fruit was fermented in tanks with twice daily gentle pumpovers. After draining and pressing, the wine was racked to a blend of new and old French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was aged in barrel for 26 months before being blended.

TECHNICAL NOTES

AppellationHorse Heaven Hills
 Blend52% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Malbec, 4% Petit Verdot
 Alcohol14.7%
 T.A.0.50 g/100 ml
 pH3.64

SENSORY INDICATOR

