

DESERT WIND

2009 Cabernet Franc Wahluke Slope, WA

Cases produced:	164
Vineyards:	Desert Wind Vineyard
Appellation:	Wahluke Slope, WA
Harvested:	October 6-7, 2009
Fermentation:	Closed-top fermentation with circulation three times per day; eight days of skin contact
Barrel Regime:	Aged in French and American oak for 20 months
Blend:	97.5% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Merlot, 1% Barbera
Final #s:	Alcohol 14.5 % • TA 0.57 g/100ml pH 3.65 • RS 0.09 g /100ml
Release Date:	February 2012

Winemaker's Notes

Cabernet Franc is a relative of Cabernet Sauvignon and is traditionally used as a blending grape in France's Bordeaux region. Cabernet Franc grows well in Eastern Washington's warm, dry climate and makes a pleasurable wine on its own. This inaugural vintage of Cabernet Franc is intensely aromatic with aromas of cherry and plum. The palate is filled with spice, almond, leather and smoke, in part due to 20 months of aging in oak barrels. Enjoy now or cellar for 5-7 years.

Vineyard

The Wahluke Slope is located in Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley. The site is considered Zone 3, the hottest in the region. Our 480-acre vineyard is a southern facing block with a two percent slope and shallow, rocky soil. The vines are irrigated with an underground drip system; double catch wires are used to increase air circulation during the growing season. Leaf pulling and cluster thinning are important steps in aiding the ripening of the grapes.

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