

Batchelor's Button

2014 | WALLA WALLA VALLEY



67% Seven Hills Cabernet Sauvignon
9% Summit View Cabernet Sauvignon
9% Seven Hills Petit Verdot
8% Dineen Cabernet Franc
7% Wallula Merlot

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.96

TA: 5.3 g/liter

RS: <0.5 g/liter

14.5% alcohol

292 cases produced



Harvest and Winemaking

2014 was one of the warmest vintages in our 18 years of winemaking. The summer was very hot and the warmth continued through the end of October. A freak cold snap hit Washington in early November causing significant bud damage in lower elevations of the Walla Walla Valley.

This vintage of the Batchelor's is a departure from previous years. For the first time we contracted for 1.1 acres of Block 14 Cabernet Sauvignon from the famed Seven Hills Vineyard in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Seven Hills Cabernet Sauvignon is a stout and complex wine with exceptional intensity.

All the grapes in the Batchelor's were hand-picked, hand-sorted, and fermented by yeasts native to the vineyards. Utilizing native fermentations we increase the complexity of the resulting wines. Only the free-run wine was used for the Batchelor's. Each component of the Batchelor's Button was aged in French Oak barrels (40% new) for 22 months prior to bottling.

We tamed the intensity of the Seven Hills Cabernet Sauvignon we used some judicious blending of 9% Summit View Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Seven Hills Petit Verdot, 8% Dineen Vineyard Cabernet Franc, and 7% Wallula Vineyard Merlot. The result is Bordeaux like Cabernet Sauvignon with a Walla Walla focus.

Tasting Notes

The wine has a dark red/black hue with aromas of soy, umami, black olives, figs, black currant, and smoke. The entry of the Cabernet Sauvignon into the mouth is plush and has a lovely midpallet intertwined of black olives, currant fruit, and a graceful hint of dried herbs. The tannins linger lightly towards a long finish.

Thoughts on Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon

Walla Walla produces a different type of Cabernet Sauvignon. Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon is lighter in the midpallet than Red Mountain or the Horse Heaven Hills and has less richness than Yakima Valley Cabernet. However, Walla Walla has an elegance and restraint combined with intensity and a hint of dried herbs.

This is our first Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon since 2003. Enjoy our first foray back to Walla Walla for Cabernet Sauvignon.

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