

# Batchelor's Button

2015 | WALLA WALLA VALLEY



55% Les Collines Vineyard

Cabernet Sauvignon

36% Summit View Vineyard

Cabernet Sauvignon

5% Dionysus Vineyard

Petit Verdot

4% Dineen Vineyard

Cabernet Franc

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.91

TA: 5.3 g/liter

RS: <0.5 g/liter

14.5% alc.

299 cases produced



## Harvest and Winemaking

2015 was the warmest Washington vintage ever. The summer heat started early in June and did not let up through the end of harvest in September. Fortunately the warmth was consistent and lacked big spikes in heat.

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 (33% new) for 22 months prior to bottling. We select lightly toasted, very tight grain barrels to maintain a light winemaking touch on the wine.

Les Collines block 24 is the best block of Cabernet at Les Collines. The vines produce tiny berries that ripen at just the right rate to retain freshness and avoid overripe character. The resulting wine is dark, savory, intense, and tannic. We contract for two acres of Summit View Cabernet Clone 191. Located at a high elevation above the Walla Walla Valley, clone 191 is a very fruity yet intense Cabernet Sauvignon. Every year we try to blend a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon Batchelor's Button, but invariably find a

little splash of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc rounds the tannins, adds aromatic complexity, and just makes the wine better.

## Tasting

Deep wine-red hue with primary aromas of dried currant, Rainier cherries, figs, and wind blown loess (fancy term for dust). The Cabernet has hints of vanilla, clove, coconut, and fresh oak. There are flavors of currants, cranberry, and dried herbs, around a core of freshness, acidity, and delicious fine grain tannins.

The Batchelor's Button is a positive case study in selecting vineyards that produce a Cabernet Sauvignon with a lightness of touch and depth of character.

## Thoughts on Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon

Walla Walla produces a different type of Cabernet Sauvignon. Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon is lighter in the midpalate 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.

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