

Rhapsody in Red

2018 | COLUMBIA VALLEY



40% Wallula Vineyard Merlot
27% Olsen Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
13% Wallula Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
17% Dionysus Vineyard Petit Verdot
3% Wallula Vineyard Cabernet Franc

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.71

Titrateable Acidity: 5.81 g/l

Residual Sugar: <0.01 g/l

Alcohol: 14.6%

Volatile Acidity: 0.57 g/l

185 cases produced



Harvest and Winemaking

The 2018 growing season was influenced by slightly higher temperatures (3.6%) than the long term average and significant air pollution from the forest fires in Canada and the United States. The corresponding decreased sunlight delayed ripening and lengthened the harvest season. Gloriously, mid-September through late October had brilliant sunshine and little rain, creating a wonderful vintage for the wine grape harvest.

The Petit Verdot was first off the vine on Sept 24. Wallula Cabernet Sauvignon was picked on Oct 15, the Merlot on Oct 16, and Cabernet Franc on Oct 18. Olsen Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon was picked on Oct 24. All the grapes were hand-picked and hand-sorted, and 100% destemmed. The grapes were fermented to dryness by yeasts native to their respective vineyards and the wines finished the malo-lactic fermentation in barrel. The blend was created in June 2018, aged in 18% new and 72% used French Oak barrels for 18 months prior to bottling.

Tasting

The Rhapsody in Red hue is a saturated black-red color. Aromas are beautifully perfumed and seductive with notes of red currant, red plum, green olive, vanilla, and light toasted oak.

Rhapsody is very fresh, delicious, has a medium weight texture, and tingling acidity. Flavors include red fruits, dried herbs, and a distinct salinity. The tannins are bright and fresh.

Thoughts on Vineyards and Red Wine Blends

All three vineyards: Dionysus, Olsen Ranch, and Wallula are expertly farmed and located in superior grape growing areas of Washington. Wallula Vineyard is planted on benches that rise above the Columbia River which moderates temperatures and retains acidity in the wine. Olsen Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon was planted in 1999 and the soil is very rocky and sandy and produces wines with salinity and smooth tannins. Dionysus is a warm site that ripens Petit Verdot quickly but creates a beautiful perfumed floral and purple fruit aromas in the wine.

Some of the greatest wines in the world are blends and represent the pinnacle of winemaking. Our goal is to make a blend that tastes better than the sum of its' components and be a recognizable reference point. Rhapsody in Red is a Bordeaux style red wine. The secrets to a good blend is excellent vineyard sources, months of tasting and testing to find the right percentages of wines to reach the intended goals for the blend.

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