

Cabernet Franc

2017 | COLUMBIA VALLEY



100% CABERNET FRANC

41% Olsen Ranch Vineyard
25% Dineen Vineyard clone 214
21% Eritage Vineyard clone VCR 10
13% Vista Montagna

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.67

TA: 4.98 g/L

RS: < 0.2 g/L

13.8% alcohol

608 Cases produced



Harvest and Winemaking

2017 was a return to a “normal” vintage from the extremely warm years of 2013-2016. The Summer and Fall were very pleasant in Washington with typical warm days and cool nights. Washington's climate is remarkable for the consistent and excellent vintages.

Four vineyards and three clones comprise this Cabernet Franc. Olsen Ranch was planted in 1991 and is located on the Eastern end of the Yakima Valley. On the Western end of the Yakima Valley resides Dineen Vineyard (planted 2004). Eritage Vineyard was planted in 2013 North of Walla Walla and Vista Montagna (planted 2000) is a tiny vineyard on the East side of Walla Walla.

Dineen Vineyard Cabernet Franc was harvested on September 26, Olsen Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Franc on September 27, Vista Montagna on October 6, and Eritage Vineyard on October 30. All the grapes were hand-picked, hand-sorted, and fermented by yeasts native to the vineyards. All the Cabernet Franc wines finished fermentation in relatively neutral French Oak barrels. The wine was blended in June of 2018 and bottled in August of 2018.

Tasting

Medium-dark red hue. Initial aromas of dark cherry, wet stones, and roasted red bell pepper are followed by notes of blueberry and thyme. The Cabernet Franc has moderate weight on the palate.

There is a perfect balance between the minerality/acidity, herbal/earthy tones, and the cherry/blueberry flavors. A fun, youthful wine that has similarities to Loire Valley Cabernet Franc (which pleases the winemaker).

Thoughts on Cabernet Franc

Cabernet Franc's ancestral home is Bordeaux and the Loire Valley of France. It also excels in Washington State. Our sunny warm days help the grapes reach potential ripeness and the cool nights help the grapes retain acidity. Our vineyards produce Cabernet Franc with balance and elegance, and most importantly the wine still tastes like Cabernet Franc. Our hope is that other high profile wineries begin to produce excellent Cabernet Franc so more consumers will discover this wonderful wine.

Cabernet Franc is used primarily as a blending wine in Washington. However, Isenhower Cellars has crafted 100% Cabernet Franc red wines since 2002.

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