

Malbec

2017 | YAKIMA VALLEY



100% Olsen Ranch Vineyard
Malbec clone 9

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.63

TA: 5.0 g/L

RS: 0.2 g/L

14.2% alcohol

425 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.

Olsen Ranch is located in the Eastern end of the Yakima Valley. The clone 9 Malbec was planted in 2007. 6.5 tons of Olsen Ranch Malbec clone 9 was hand harvested on October 17, 2017 (23.5 brix, pH 3.63, TA 5.33 g/L). All the grapes were sorted by hand, destemmed, and fermented by native yeasts for 12 days before pressing. The Malbec finished the native yeast and malo-lactic fermentations in relatively neutral French Oak barrels. The wine was racked once and bottled in August 2018.

Tasting

Dark purple/red hue. Savory aromas of blackberry, pencil lead, forest undergrowth, minerality, and cocoa. On the

palate, the Malbec is sweet and indulgent but has balancing minerality.

There are flavors of tart blackberry, cocoa, and minerality. The Malbec is lively and lithe on the long finish.

Thoughts on Malbec

Malbec’s ancestral home is Cahors in South-western France. Argentina has surpassed Cahors with 70% of the world’s Malbec. Cahors leans towards the savory, tart, less ripe, and meaty side of Malbec. Argentinian Malbec is more fruity with a plush character.

Our goal for Malbec is to craft a riper style of Cahors. We like the savory character of Cahors with a little more fruit. Washington is ideal for this style of Malbec because of our hot summers, cool nights, and compact growing season. The challenge in Washington is the Malbec vine is very sensitive to winter injury and the vines can produce irregular clusters due to shatter.

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