

Road Less Traveled

2014 | YAKIMA VALLEY



100% Cabernet Franc

86% Dineen Vineyard clone 214
14% Olsen Ranch Vineyard

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.66

TA: 5.25 g/liter

RS: 0.2 g/liter

14.5% alc. by vol.

340 cases produced



Harvest and Winemaking

"Two roads diverged in a woods and I - I took the road less traveled by and that has made all the difference." Robert Frost

2014 was a remarkable vintage. It was the second warmest vintages in Washington State history, very prolific in tons of grapes per acre harvested, and one of the highest quality vintages ever.

Dineen Vineyard clone 214 Cabernet Franc was harvested on Sept. 23 & Sept. 29. Olsen Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Franc was picked on Oct. 2.

Both blocks of Cabernet Franc were hand harvested and sorted by hand at the winery to remove all leaves and undesirable clusters. The grapes were destemmed and 12% removal of juice was done to further concentrate the resulting wine. The Dineen Cabernet Franc was fermented in tank with twice a day pump-overs. The Olsen Cabernet Franc was fermented in open bins with three times a day punchdowns.

Only the free run wine was retained for the Road Less Traveled and was aged in 33% new French and American oak barrels for ten months prior to bottling. The wine lees was stirred three times to increase the richness of the resulting Cabernet Franc.

Tasting

The Road Less Traveled has a dark red hue and aromas of dark cherries, blueberries, bay leaf, wood smoke, sea salt, and freshly plowed wet earth. It tastes of red fruits and blueberries. The texture is feminine, bright and lively, seamless and has an appealing hint of brine. The finish is pleasing with graceful balance.

Thoughts on Cabernet Franc

In Bordeaux, Cabernet Franc is a blending wine, used to enhance the aromas of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Cabernet Franc is the star of the show in the Loire Valley but it can struggle to ripen there resulting in wines that are excessively green tasting.

The Cabernet Franc vine is very winter tolerant and prefers a long growing season to ripen.

Cabernet Franc serves a blending role in Washington but also can be a single variety wine. We have made 100% Cabernet Franc red wines since 2003. Washington Cabernet Franc has riper flavors and less green notes than other region's Cabernet Francs. The tannins are softer than Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon. Franc pairs well with roasted vegetables, pork, chicken, and hearty soups.

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