

Batchelor's Button

2017 | WALLA WALLA VALLEY



50% Les Collines Vineyard

Cabernet Sauvignon

38% Summit View Vineyard

Cabernet Sauvignon

6% Dionysus Vineyard *Petit Verdot*

6% Dineen Vineyard *Cabernet Franc*

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.85

Titrateable Acidity: 5.4 g/l

Residual Sugar: <0.1 g/l

Alcohol: 14.5%

Volatile Acidity: 0.68 g/l

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. Most of our vineyards were harvested two weeks later in 2017 versus 2016. Washington's climate is remarkable for the excellent vintages year to year.

The 16th vintage of the Batchelor's Button. Summit View was picked on October 12, and Les Collines on October 25. All the grapes were hand-harvested, hand-sorted, and destemmed before a 3 to 5 day cold soak. Native yeasts conducted the fermentation and the wines were pressed at near dryness. We punched down once a day to avoid over-extraction of tannins. Only the free-run wine was retained for the Batchelor's Button. The Cabernet's finished the malo-lactic fermentation in barrel.

The blend was assembled in June 2018. Petit Verdot adds to the mid-palette and Cabernet Franc helps to tame the tannins and enhance the aromas. The wine was aged in 29% new French Oak barrels for 22 months prior to bottling. We selected light to medium toast, tight grain barrels to support but not dominate the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Tasting

Dark Red/Black hue. There are aromas of wind blown silt soil, black olive, anise, red currants, and cocoa powder. The mouth feel is plush on entry to the middle where the Cabernet tannins begin. The Batchelor's has fruit flavors of dried currants and blackberries with hints of chocolate dust. The wine is light on its feet and fresh but is still a big wine.

Thoughts on Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon is a relative newcomer in Bordeaux, being a cross between Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc. Cabernet Sauvignon is Washington's and Walla Walla's primary red grape in acres planted.

Walla Walla produces a unique Cabernet. It tends to have a dried earth and red fruit character. Tannin levels in Walla Walla Cabernet vary. Silt Loam soils produce very firm tannins in the wine. Whereas the Rocks district produces a soft and savory Cabernet Sauvignon.

Young vine Walla Walla Cabernet wine seems less developed and complex. Mature to older vine wines have better texture, intensity, and tannin profile.

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