

Cabernet Franc

2016 | YAKIMA VALLEY



100% CABERNET FRANC

45% Olsen Ranch Vineyard
28% Wallula Vineyard clone 214
27% Dineen Vineyard clone 214

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.8

TA: 5.2 g/liter

RS: 0.22 g/liter

14.5% alcohol

450 cases bottled



Harvest and Winemaking

2016 was a continuation of very warm vintages that Washington has experienced since 2013. We experienced brilliant sunny and hot weather during the summer and fall except for a few days of rain in mid-October. Washington's climate is remarkable for the consistent and excellent vintages.

Located near Prosser, WA, Olsen Ranch Cabernet Franc was planted in 1994 with the only clone of Cabernet Franc available. This Cabernet Franc has the traditional dark cherry and herbal flavors. In 2016 the grapes were picked on September 14.

We planted two acres of Cabernet Franc at Wallula Vineyard in 2014. Wallula is located in the middle of nowhere Benton County, on benches perched above the Columbia River. The clone 214 Cabernet Franc produced a darkly colored and muscular wine. Wallula Cabernet Franc was picked on September 20.

Dineen Vineyard is located near Zillah, WA in the Rattlesnake Hills. The clone 214 Cabernet Franc was planted in 2010. Dineen Cabernet Franc has a distinctive blueberry and sea salt character. We harvested these grapes on September 21.

All the grapes were hand-harvested, hand-sorted, and destemmed "whole berry". Native yeasts conducted the fermentation of each vineyard to dryness before pressing. All the wines finished malo-lactic in a combination of used French and American oak barrels.

Each separate lot of Cabernet Franc was racked once and the blend constructed just prior to bottling in August of 2017.

Tasting

Dark red youthful color. Savory and fruity aromas of Bing cherry and red plum with dried sage, clove, and windblown loess. The mouthfeel has a sense of lightness and freshness with counterbalancing fruit and plush texture. The flavors consist of red plums, dry herbal spices, hints of vanilla, clove, and fresh oak.

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 full potential ripeness. 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. We like to pair our Cabernet Franc with Ratatouille, roasted pork, ground beef, and hearty soups.

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