

2009 Yakima Valley Red Wine



This wine showcases the world-class Merlot and Cabernet Franc grapes of the Yakima Valley. The fruit is from several small vineyards from the cooler western end of the region where the long days of sunshine and moderate temperatures in the evening conspire to produce lush, aromatic grapes with lovely acidity and low pH.

TASTING NOTES Our signature red wine from Yakima Valley Washington! Scents of red and pink flowers, red and black plums, cranberry sauce and blackberry currant chutney pervade. Flavors of tart red pie cherries, blueberry cobbler, sweet summer barbecue and raspberry turnovers give way to a balanced framework of tannins and finish with warm, lingering Madagascar vanilla and black licorice. In the words of our own Garret: "It smells like Merlot, drinks like Cabernet Franc and finishes like Cabernet Sauvignon!" Drink now or age this handsome wine for 10-20 years.

VINTAGE 2009 was very hot, thus making it a shorter and earlier ripening season. Grapes were allowed to become very ripe and sweet, leading to big and bold wines. There is a higher extraction rate than in cooler vintages, mostly due to the higher alcohols resulting from higher sugars.

WINEMAKING The fruit for this wine was hand harvested, chilled, destemmed and fermented with manual punch downs twice daily. The wine was racked once after malolactic fermentation and then aged in French oak barrels.

BLENDING DETAIL
59% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc,
17% Cabernet Sauvignon

BARREL REGIME Aged in French oak for 16 months with 15% new oak.

VINEYARDS/AVA
All Yakima Valley fruit, with the majority coming from Red Willow Vineyard (over 70%)

PRODUCTION
3,608 cases made

