

2009 Merlot

Walla Walla Valley

Winemaker Notes

Bright aromas of cherries, blackberries, boysenberries and plums intertwine with notes of spice, cedar and crushed gravel. Silky tannins introduce smooth, full flavors of Bing cherries, cassis, dark chocolate and cola. Layers of spiciness and mouthwatering acidity linger throughout the lengthy finish.

— *Jean-François Pellet, Winemaker*

The 2009 Vintage

Spring started off wet and cool, delaying bud break. May heated up quickly, but then led to a cycle of temperature fluctuations. Although the weather was variable throughout the summer and kept us guessing, the vines ultimately delivered a crop of smaller berries with very concentrated flavors and smooth tannins. Intense flavors and colors, combined with subtle minerality and bright acidity are the signature of this vintage.



100% Estate
Sustainably Farmed

Wine Specifics

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Varietal(s): | 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec |
| Vineyard(s): | 55% Seven Hills, 45% Pepper Bridge |
| Appellation: | 100% Walla Walla Valley |
| Oak Program: | 100% French oak 58% used oak, 42% new oak |
| Time in Barrels: | 17 months |
| Harvest Date(s): | September 16 through October 9, 2009 |
| Brix at Harvest: | 25.8 |
| Finished Alcohol: | 14.1% by volume |
| Total Production: | 731 9-liter cases and 25 cases of magnums |
| Bottling Date: | March 11, 2011 |
| Release Date: | December 2, 2011 |