

2004 Cabernet Sauvignon

Columbia Valley, Washington

THE WINE

Eastern Washington's warm days and cool nights are perfect conditions for producing rich, complex Cabernet Sauvignon with excellent structure. The 2004 Hogue Cabernet Sauvignon is a full, fruity wine with intense aromas of black cherry, anise and vanilla, flavors of dark fruit, caramel and cocoa, and firm structure. This Cabernet Sauvignon is an excellent companion to steak and pastas with a robust red sauce or, for a special treat, try it with dark chocolate.

THE VINTAGE AND VINEYARDS

The grapes came from three growing regions, with 56% from the Horse Heaven Hills, 30% from the Yakima Valley, and 14% from the Wahluke Slope. A hard freeze in January 2004 was cause for alarm and there were expectations that up to half the vintage would be lost. With skillful viticulture and much thanks to Mother Nature we still ended up meeting our crop goals for the year. A warm spring was followed by a warmer than normal summer. An early harvest was expected but cool weather in the beginning of September slowed development and allowed for a relatively normal harvest. Dry weather in late September and October allowed for extended hang time and excellent ripening.

THE WINEMAKING

The grapes were picked at an average of 25.8° Brix between September 7th and October 26th. They were destemmed and crushed into stainless steel tanks for primary fermentation at a maximum temperature of 92°F and pressed at around 10.0° Brix based on color, astringency, and flavor. The wines then went through malo-lactic fermentation and micro-oxygenation to stabilize and round out during aging. Over the course of a year the wines were tasted and blended to carefully craft the final product. The wine was bottled in August 2005 using the Stelvin® screw cap to preserve freshness and eliminate undesirable flavors.

THE NUMBERS

Appellation: Columbia Valley

Varietal Percentage: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Syrah, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot

Brix at Harvest: 25.8°

pH: 3.75

TA: 0.57 g/100 ml

Alcohol: 13.9%

Release Date: February 2006



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