

2005 Gewürztraminer

Columbia Valley, Washington

THE WINE

During the grape growing season, Eastern Washington boasts warm summer days followed by cool nights, ensuring that grapes ripen fully while retaining ample natural acidity. We let our Gewürztraminer attain a high level of ripeness before picking. The resultant wine has aromas of lychee and rose petal. The rich palate is medium-bodied, with lychee, true varietal flavors and a spiciness characteristic of Gewürztraminer. The winemakers suggest pairing the wine with Thai curries or dishes with a sweet peanut sauce.

THE VINTAGE AND VINEYARDS

Record low snowfall during the winter led to the threat of drought. Careful water management by Hogue growers led to a successful, high quality season. Warm spring weather was followed by a warmer than normal summer. However, the lack of any extremely hot days in July and August led to excellent fruit quality. September and October were cool and dry, resulting in vibrant aromatics and crisp acids in the white wines. The grapes were harvested between September 12 and October 7 from several vineyards in the Columbia Valley, including Cervantes, Arrowsmith, Flying M, Sunnyside, and Pearson.

THE WINEMAKING

Gewürztraminer is at its best when the grapes are fully mature. A cold, slow fermentation helped to preserve the characteristic fruitiness of this variety. We ferment all of our Gewürztraminer in stainless steel at temperatures ranging from 50 and 60 degrees F with Epernay II and Steinberger yeast. To maintain the fruit focus, the new wine goes directly from stainless steel tank to bottle.

THE SCREWCAP SEAL

Hogue Cellars has switched to screwcap seals following its four-year closures study, which found that screwcaps best preserve wine quality in the bottle, keep flavors freshest, eliminate the threat of cork taint, and ensure consistency of flavors.

THE NUMBERS

Appellation: Columbia Valley

Varietal Percentage: 100% Gewürztraminer

Brix at Harvest: 23.4

TA: 0.69 g/100ml

pH: 3.25

RS: 2.14

Alcohol: 12.7%

Release Date: January 2006



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