

2003 Hogue Terroir Sangiovese

Columbia Valley (Horse Heaven Hills)

THE WINE

At The Hogue Cellars our love of Sangiovese has been inspired by Director of Winemaking David Forsyth, an unabashed Italophile. The 2003 Terroir Sangiovese is a departure from our previous efforts, which were made in the distinct Super-Tuscan style. This one is made with 79% Sangiovese as the core of the wine, 10% Syrah for softness and bright fruit, and 8% Malbec to round out its structure. It has subtle aromas of cherry, black olive, and pumpkin pie. In the mouth it comes across as having ripe berry and soft cherry fruit accented by spices reminiscent of curried dishes. It is an elegant wine with firm tannins that will stand up to most foods. Pair with eggplant parmesan or herbed focaccia bread and olive oil.

VINTAGE AND VINEYARDS

While this is bottled as a Columbia Valley appellation it should be noted that 98% of the wine comes from the Horse Heaven appellation, which was only recently recognized as an American Viticultural Area. Seventy-nine percent of the wine is from Zephyr Ridge Sangiovese Block 32, which has been the core of our Sangiovese program for several years now. The Syrah and Malbec both came from McKinley Springs Vineyard, which often ends up as part of the Terroir and Reserve programs at Hogue. Record heat and dryness in 2003 brought concentration and a relatively small crop of only 3.6 tons per acre.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The grapes were harvested and crushed on September 29th, 2003. It should be noted that after only 27 hours of maceration 22% of the juice was removed from the tank to make our Sangiovese Rosé. The rest of the wine was fermented in a small stainless steel tank for five days, pressed into another stainless tank to finish primary fermentation, and then sent to barrels on October 9th. The wine aged in a mixture of new and 1-year-old French oak for twenty three months and was bottled in August 2005.

THE NUMBERS

Appellation: Columbia Valley (Horse Heaven Hills)

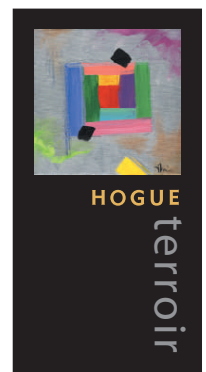
Varietal Percentage: 79% Sangiovese, 10% Syrah, 8% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 1% Merlot

Harvest Brix: 25.7°

TA: 0.66/100 ml

pH: 3.51

Alcohol: 14.6%



Hogue Cellars
P.O. Box 31
Prosser, WA 99350
www.vincorusa.com