

# BARNARD GRIFFIN

ESTD.  1983

## 2018 Orange Muscat | Columbia Valley

### VINTAGE

The 2018 growing season, my 41st in Washington, was defined by a very early and very warm and dry spring giving the vines an essential head start. Temperatures moderated and our average heat summations settled in to a pattern which showed us ahead of historical averages by a week to ten days. A gentle spring and early summer evolved into a scorcher of epic proportions later in July and into August.

Our fears for an overripe harvest were mitigated, oddly enough, by extensive atmospheric smoke from Northern British Columbia. This effectively blocked the sun for several weeks and, while the temperatures were hot, the vines lacked sunlight for essential photosynthesis and ripening was shifted into a state of, if you will, suspended animation.

Early varieties like Pinot Gris and Sauvignon Blanc were indeed quite early with harvest commencing in late August. Moderating temperatures and a generally welcome cooling trend delayed reds to a more normal harvest schedule and allowed for proper flavor development and an almost optimal sugar acid balance. Moderate comfortable and dry weather extended without major incident to the end of harvest in late October.

All in all, a season yielding crisp fruit-driven whites and generously balanced reds of large dimension.

### SENSORY

Beautifully crafted, coating the mouth with tiers of orange creamcicle and subtle lime. The smooth, viscous texture is deftly balanced by bright, mouthwatering acidity. Just the right degree of sweetness makes this wine a great match for fruit and cheese platters and lighter summer fair.

### TECHNICAL

Vineyards –  
Crawford Vineyard *Yakima Valley*

Alcohol – 11.8%  
pH – 3.6  
TA – .7  
RS – 42g/L  
Malolactic Status – negative

Harvest Date – 9/12

Winemaking –  
cool fermented in stainless steel to retain fruit intensity held between 55-60 degrees fermentation temperature; stopped fermentation naturally to retain sweetness

Quantity – 296 cases  
Bottled – August, 2019



Rob Griffin  
Proprietor | Head Winemaker



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