



BARNARD
GRIFFIN

ESTD. 1983

2019 Syrah Port

Columbia Valley, Washington



VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season, my 42nd in Washington State, was defined not by exception but by an almost eerie normality. Budbreak was slightly delayed following an unseasonably cold and snow February. Vine growth quickly caught up to 'normal' in a warm Spring. Through the Summer months, we experienced an uptick in temperatures for a short stint in our 'normal' hot July and August months. Yet, 'normal' comes back to mind as we welcomed a downturn in fall temperatures which helped to moderate sugars and preserve natural acidity.

Summer heat summations (our benchmark for vine growth) trended a week ahead of long-term averages. When compared to our most recent vintages, heat summations actually were a touch behind. Historically, however, we have to view this as 'normal' in a warming environment. 2019 lacked the scorching warmth of recent Summers and there was a welcome reprieve from regional forest fire smoke. Maturation proceeded at a desirable pace with solid grape acidity and moderate fruit sugars. This desirable pace allowed for crisp balanced whites and rich restrained reds. The only blemish on an otherwise fine season was an early freeze in the second week of October which brought harvest in many locations to an early and speedy conclusion. Cabernet Sauvignon grown at higher altitudes was spared from the freeze and virtually all other reds were safely harvested by this time.

All in all 2019 yielded crisp whites with heightened fruit character and balanced reds of moderate alcohol, dense body and mature flavors.

HARVEST & WINEMAKING

Blend of 90.5% Syrah 2.7% Tempranillo 3.2% Toringa National 3.6% Souzao

Pumpovers 2 times daily; pressed at 11% sugar; peak fermentation temperature 85 degrees; aged 18+ months in barrel using new and neutral European oak.

TASTING NOTES

Just a whiff of chocolaty, toasty wood gives way to fabulous aromas of cherry and raspberry. Richly-fruited and thickly layered, boasting a stylish streak of blueberry fruit.

VINEYARDS

Arete Vineyard | Columbia Valley
Desert Aire Vineyard | Wahluke Slope
Shaw Vineyard | Red Mountain

DETAILS

ABV | 18.83%
pH | 3.8
TA | .73
RS | 5.8%
ML | 100%

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