



BARNARD
GRIFFIN

ESTD. 1983



2021 Merlot

Columbia Valley, Washington

VINTAGE

2021 was a hot one. When we look back from the comfort of days yet to come – we might trivialize this memory. “Yes, it was warm.” But how warm is warm? Well, on one day in particular, the other place in the US that was just as warm as the Columbia Valley was a place called Death Valley. It is of my understanding that they don’t grow a lot of grapes there.

Spring was early and warm – kicking things into gear sooner than we are generally accustomed, and it rolled straight into a *hot* summer. We relied upon the knowledge and hard work of our growers to keep the grapes alive through this unprecedented heat. Water regimens had to be locked in and canopies situated so that the grapes had a modicum of relief from the blazing sun.

Once we made it through summer, heat moderated and things were fairly straightforward through the end of harvest. It began early, we brought in Sagemoor Sauvignon Blanc on August 18th, the earliest opening day ever. We were fortunate to have a season that didn’t have any smoke concerns, rain events or freezes, and we were wrapping things up with a final load of Merlot on October 29th.

The intense heat contributed to smaller, more concentrated berries with less tonnage to go around – which in the end will make for some truly interesting, small lot wines. Reds will have a dense color and concentration. We were initially concerned about lacking acids in the whites due to heat – but those concerns no longer have merit thanks to the diurnal temperature shift we have in this region, cool nights saved the day and the acid. It was a year to ‘pitch a tent in the vineyard’ and taste/sample grapes early and often. Harvest by the calendar was not an option – and it was a year that proved our decision to locate the winery where the grapes are was a good one.

HARVEST & WINEMAKING

80.3% Merlot 9% Syrah 9.6% Cab 1.1% Petit Verdot

Pumpovers 2 times daily; pressed at 1-3% sugar; peak fermentation temperature 85 degrees; aged in 16 months in barrel

Bottled in August, 2022. Total production was 2,195 cases.

TASTING NOTES

A fragrant, aromatic Merlot offering enticing aromas and flavors of plum and dark berries accompanied by inviting toasted oak notes. Features a generously rich texture balanced by juicy acidity. Pair with foods that require a fruity, flavorful young red.

VINEYARDS

Sagemoor Vineyard | Columbia Valley
Black Rock Vineyard | Yakima Valley
Lonesome Spring Ranch | Yakima Valley

DETAILS

ABV | 13.8%
pH | 3.64
TA | .73
RS | 0.03g / 100 mL
ML | 100%

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