



BARNARD
GRIFFIN

ESTD. 1983

2021 Rob's Red Blend

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

Blend of 36% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot

- Pumpovers 2 times daily; pressed at 1-3% sugar; peak fermentation temperature 85 degrees
- Aged 14+ months in barrel using European upright oak tanks
- 5700 cases produced

TASTING NOTES

On the palate, rich black cherry and plum fruit leads the parade followed by a solid core of mouth coating dark berry flavors. A wonderful underpinning of mocha, toasted oak and vanilla notes complements the youthful, full-bodied texture of this delicious red blend. A perfect match for summer barbecues and grilled meats.

VINEYARDS

Sagemoor Vineyard | White Bluffs
Black Rock Vineyard | Yakima Valley
Gunkel Vineyard | Columbia Valley
Desert Aire | Wahluke Slope
Lonesome Spring Ranch | Yakima Valley

DETAILS

ABV	14.2%
pH	3.88
TA	.61
RS	.25%
ML	100%

BARNARD  GRIFFIN

www.barnardgriffin.com | 878 Tulip Lane, Richland, Washington 99352

Matthew McKinnon | Regional Sales Manager - PNW - (360) 550-1099

Tom Champine | National Sales Manager - (971) 235-4333

