

Malbec

LABEL: ROBERT WILLIS

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2020



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Aromas of blueberry and boysenberry are balanced with notes of sweet tobacco. Violet and a hint of pepper add layers of complexity to the ripe fruit. This powerful, yet sleek Malbec has a firm structure, robust fruit and a long, lingering finish.

VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Spice Cabinet Vineyard. Our Spice Cabinet Vineyard sits on a southeast slope above the Columbia River. The orientation of the block allows for morning sun exposure of the fruit, while avoiding the intense afternoon rays.

GROWING SEASON

The 2020 vintage started out cooler than normal, but temperatures quickly warmed up in August. Because of the warmer weather, crop yields were lower. Along with the lower crop yields, the grapes were able to develop concentrated and vibrant flavors.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested and sorted in the vineyards with our "Selective Harvester" to allow for maximum hangtime and flavor development. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole-berry as possible. We fermented the fruit in oak and open top fermenters. Both vessels received twice daily punch downs. The wine in the oak fermenter also received rack & returns. This technique is called *délestage* - removing all the juice from the vessel and returning it gently back on top of the grapes. After fermentation, the wine was drained, pressed and barreled down for malolactic fermentation and aging. The wine was barrel aged for 20 months in 75% new French oak.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 100% Malbec

Alcohol: 14.8%

T.A: 0.64 g/100 ml

pH: 3.87

ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2019:

Sip's 11th Annual Best of the Northwest Wine Awards - Platinum

2023 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition - Gold

Seattle Wine Awards - Gold

James Suckling - 91pts

International Women's Wine Competition - Gold