



2010 Merlot Horse Heaven Hills

DavenLore
winery

CASES PRODUCED: 89

WINEMAKER NOTES

Merlot from Alder Ridge Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills shows what a Merlot can be: a solid performer and great blender that plays well with others. In this vintage we blended 10% Cabernet Franc and a splash (5%) of Yakima Valley Malbec, adding a bit of lime citrus zest to the flavor profile. The wine is soft and approachable with rich chocolate paired with blackberry and red currant fruit. The cocoa finish lingers on the mid palate ending with a hint of fig and licorice for an eternity...well until the next sip. This is the reason I like Merlot. It's solid, smooth, round, easy to drink and does not try to be something it's not. Why should it? It's comforting. Before you know it, the bottle is gone! *Gord Taylor, Winemaker*

VINEYARDS

Location: ALDER RIDGE VINEYARD, HORSE HEAVEN HILLS
Merlot Block 8 Cabernet Franc Block 1

Date Planted: 1998 **Soil:** Warden Fine Sandy Loam

Location: LONESOME SPRING RANCH, YAKIMA VALLEY

Date Planted 2001 **Soils:** Scooteney Silt Loam

WINEMAKING

MERLOT • ALDER RIDGE VINEYARD

Harvested by Hand: September 30 2010

Brix: 26.5 **pH:** 3.50

Yeast: Lallemand D-21

Fermentation: 10 days **Maximum temperature:** 84°F

CABERNET FRANC • ALDER RIDGE VINEYARD

Harvested by Hand: October 29 2010

Brix: 24.5 **pH:** 3.57

Yeast: Laffort F-15

Fermentation: 7 days **Maximum temperature:** 83°F

MALBEC • LONESOME SPRING RANCH

Harvested by Hand: October 22 2010

Brix: 23.0 **pH:** 3.48

Yeast: Laffort F-15

Fermentation: 5 days **Maximum temperature:** 80°F

MERLOT

HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

Wine Lore: When you think red wine, and think classical, what comes to mind? Merlot. Sure, there are other reds that may be bolder, may have more mystery, may have names that are exciting or novel, but there is always Merlot. It is classical. It shows off the oak but still keeps its integrity and just feels right. Whether it is your first red comfort zone or the red that you know you can trust when the world around you is swirling with choices, a good Merlot is like going home.



TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 13.9%

Blend:

Alder Ridge Vineyard:

Merlot 85%

Cabernet Franc 10%

Lonesome Spring Ranch:

Malbec 5%

Cases produced: 89

Bottled: August 31 2012

Potential Aging: 0-5 years

FOOD PAIRINGS

Classic burgers

Spaghetti carbonara

Quiche

Flan

