

TERO

ESTATES

2011 Cabernet Franc

Walla Walla Valley AVA | 141 Cases Produced

Vineyard

Windrow Vineyard is the oldest commercially planted vineyard (1981) in the Walla Walla AVA. Talks to create the appellation happened on this soil. Situated on a bench created thousands of years ago where Lower Dry Creek empties into the southern Walla Walla Valley, Windrow has a rare combination of heat during the day followed by a cool breeze flowing out of the Blue Mountains in the evenings. This diurnal shift allows us to grow our grapes until later in the season, increasing maturity while retaining enough acidity to maintain balance and structure. Ellisford Silt Loam is prevalent in this part of the Walla Walla Valley AVA. Windrow varies from deep deposits of windblown loess to shallow layers over gravelly cobble.

Winemaking

We spent more time working on the canopy for the Cabernet Franc this year than almost any other year. In November of 2010, a frost hit that stunted or halted much of the valley's production for 2011. We were lucky enough to survive all of that. Due to that and the cold leading into 2011, we were worried that the later ripening varieties wouldn't reach maturity and decided to go with quality over quantity early on. We cluster thinned and leaf stripped and achieved what we had been striving towards. Aromatically, this wine is what we know and love but the acids held on this vintage better than most years, leading to great aging potential and a nice backbone to balance out the fruit.

Tasting Notes

Our estate Cabernet Franc always sells out in a heartbeat, so we suggest snagging this one before it is too late! This beautiful wine opens with intriguing aromas of mulberry, rose petals, smoke and raspberry brambles. The palate opens with full-bodied flavors of roasted coffee beans, baker's chocolate, earth, minerals as it moves into dark berries, roasted nuts, mocha and orange peel with a dusting of spices and herbs.