

TERO

ESTATES

2011 DC3 Blend

Walla Walla Valley AVA | 115 Cases Produced

Vineyard

Windrow Vineyard is the oldest commercially planted vineyard in the Walla Walla AVA. Talks to create the appellation happened on this soil. Situated on a bench created by 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

The sum is greater than its parts, as history can attest, to the Cabernet Franc/Merlot blend. Hundreds of years of tradition can't be wrong. In the DC3, we've set out to show our vineyard's version. The aromatics of the Cab Franc blend in with the racy fruit on the Merlot, leading to a nicely rounded and balanced wine.

Rain and a slow start affected bloom and set, resulting in slightly lower than average yields. One could argue, and we will, this low tonnage led to better quality fruit. Block 2 Merlot is the backbone of this wine. We were able to pick that in nearly perfect conditions. Cab Franc came off about 3 weeks later. The oak profile on this Merlot is 40% new French oak and 50% new French oak on the Cabernet Franc. The Cabernet Franc was aged in puncheon barrels and other large format barrels to mitigate over-oaking the nuanced Cabernet Franc notes that our vineyard is famous for.

Tasting Notes

This wine takes its name from Herb Hendricks' Duggar Creek Cattle Company (DC3) part of whose land became Windrow Vineyard. A blend of 59% Estate Merlot and 41% Estate Cabernet Franc, it displays an opaque purplish color and smoky nose of blackberry, black cherry, cassis, cigar tobacco, crushed roses, bayberry and rubbed sage. The full, dark fruit flavors are generous and savory, underlain with black licorice, bittersweet chocolate, Sumatra roast and silt and gravel minerals. Finishes with a lingering sweet-dry moderate tannin finish.