

TERO

ESTATES

2011 TERO Red

Walla Walla AVA | 312 Cases Produced

Vineyards

The Merlot comes from Southwind Vineyard. Southwind is a Salmon Safe, LIVE and Vinea certified vineyard on the western end of Milton Freewater and the southern tip of the Walla Walla Valley AVA. At a much higher altitude and in a Licksillet soil profile, and elevated calcium carbonate levels, this vineyard is breaking new ground in the Valley and leading to more mineral fruit.

The Cabernet Sauvignon comes from our estate; 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 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

2011 was a brutal vintage. Cold topped with cold sprinkled with rain. The beautiful thing about cold years is that even though they are miserable to work, they produce the longest ageing wines as well as the most food-friendly pairing wines with strong structure and crisp acid skeletons. You have some wiggle room with bigger tannins to bounce off of those bigger acids and that is what we did here. We upped our Merlot from last year, dropped the Petit Verdot and lowered the Cabernet so we were dealing with a much heavier dose of early ripeners on this blend. It became quickly apparent that for all of the stress, this could be a great Merlot year and sure enough, we got a lot of that chocolate dust that is so lovely from Walla Walla.

Tasting Notes

84% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon. Potent dried sour cherry, hint of floral, cola, cedar, bark and red currant lead to watermelon on the palate. A simple grilled meats' best friend. Medium bodied with that quintessential Washington dust and cocoa. Tahitian vanilla, almond skin and fine persistent tannins on a long and complex finish.