



**2011 Washington State Cabernet Sauvignon**

**Washington State AVA | 220 Cases Produced**

### **Vineyard**

Cold Creek, Candy Mountain and Olsen Vineyards:

Cold Creek Vineyard is located in central Washington, east of Yakima and south of the Columbia River and Wahluke Slope. The site was originally planted in 1973 on a gentle south-facing slope which enjoys one of the longest and warmest growing seasons in the Columbia Valley appellation. Cold Creek is an ideal site for growing grapes, from the 30-year-old stressed vines planted in light, silty, well-draining soils to the long, hot days and cool nights during the growing season. With roughly five inches of annual rainfall at the site, the fruit from these tough vines have the power and concentration that only comes with age

Candy Mountain Vineyard was planted in 1998 and is managed by Tom Waliser. On a 5% south facing slope, this arid site is comprised of blow sand, gravel and granitic deposits. Similar to its slightly lower elevation neighbor Red Mountain, this site is low on rainfall and high on robust tannins and strong wind. Olsen is located in the Yakima Valley and is farmed by Leif Olsen. Leif previously worked at Cold Creek and was impressed by their "Fan Trained" old block of Cabernet, so he urged the family to plant Cabernet in the "Fan Trained" trellis system at the family vineyard in 2005. Knowing I'd worked with Cold Creek's old block, Leif offered Waters the fruit in 2009 and its been one of our steady performers ever since. Only across the river from Red Mountain, one of the hottest AVA's in the state, Olsen is actually a cool climate site that allows for full plant ripeness along with berry ripeness.

### **Winemaking**

2011 was a challenging vintage in that most of the Walla Walla Valley vineyards were decimated by a late November frost, on the heels of very tepid weather. So we looked to partner vineyards outside of the Walla Walla Valley. Cold Creek, Olsen and Candy Mountain were unaffected by the frost and produced what I would consider a banner growing year and excellent fruit..Aged in 35% new French oak and 70% neutral French oak.

### **Tasting Notes**

A substantial wine with a big mid palate mouth feel and ripe refined tannins, Blue and red fruits, pencil shavings and cassis on the nose with a solid backbone of natural acid.