

TERO

ESTATES

2012 Merlot

Walla Walla Valley AVA

\$39 Winery Retail

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 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.

Herb's Block is the tiniest block off of our 25 acre vineyard. Herb's Block is 0.31 acres. Great wines come from small acreage. The elevation here is 860 feet and we pull off an average of ¼ ton from the whole block.

Winemaking

The 2012 vintage made it so that the making of this wine was easier than other vintages, a welcome vintage after the 2011 difficulties. Tonnage was up by 30% and growing degree days were significantly higher leading to ripe fruit and lots of options. A total lack of rainfall meant uninterrupted harvesting choices and that the pyrazines were quickly cooked out. This particular blend benefited greatly from the warm mid-season so the Sangiovese could ripen while dropping some acidity.

Tasting Notes

Earth, rose petals and dark floral notes lead to leather and cured meats. Plum, rhubarb, cherries and cedar finalize with soft, well integrated tannins and a structured finish. The 2012 vintage is proof that this classic Windrow Vineyard Merlot is a classic for a reason- it's amazing.