

Tasting Notes

2009 “Wild Child” Merlot



Vintage Notes: 2009 was an almost perfect vintage cut short ONCE AGAIN by the ever lurking chance of frost. This time it dawned upon us second week of October. A very hot beginning of summer raised many an eyebrow and the outlook for over-ripe plummy wines was a possibility. Luckily, temperatures during the ripening phase came down and hovered a little under normal. This certainly saved the vintage and maintained fresh acidities and good balance in the picked grapes! The harvest was fast and furious due to the early development of the grapes; we were done picking our high end blocks close to three weeks earlier than normal!

The grapes came in with very thick skins, especially the Merlot, they were probably the thickest skins we have seen in years. Smaller berry sizes on Cabernet Sauvignon were also good -which gave us extremely concentrated wines with acidity above average! A very good thing! Tannins this year are present and fresh with great promise of barrel aging. In general, all our wines show great finesse, character and structure. So hang in there and await another great vintage from Bergevin Lane Vineyards.

Tasting Notes:

Our 2nd offering in the new BLV Merlot era sports ripe plum, dark cherries and perfectly integrated oak spice.

Lush, rich and even denser than last year's version. Concentrated and quite thick in the mouth with substantial ripe fine grained tannin. Exquisitely balanced and giving with plenty of terroir and mineral complexity as well!

Appellation/Vineyards:

Stone Tree Vineyards (WS): 69%, Pepper Bridge (WW) 26%, Double Canyon (HHH): 3%, Les Collines (WW): 2%. (Columbia Valley AVA)

Final Blend: 76% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec, 8% Petit Verdot.

Aging: 20 months in 88% French oak, 10% American oak and 2% Hungarian oak.

Bottle Date, Alc., & Cases Produced:
August 24, 2011 14.3% alc. 293 Cases

Winemaking notes:

A total vineyard make-over for our Merlot program we initiated 5 years ago has paid off again. Sourcing from excellent vineyards combined with vine age make sure that going forward we will produce a yearly Merlot. As always very strict selection, fermentation and ageing protocols are followed to make sure that the end product is at the same quality level as all our other releases. True to my vision blended with other varieties for additional complexity and depth in the true BLV style is certainly a great counter part to our Cabernet Sauvignon blend. Right bank vs. left bank.... (Bordeaux of course..)