

Tasting Notes

2011 “Wild Child” Merlot Wahluke Slope



Vintage Notes: We harvested reds as much as 2-3 weeks earlier than average. 2011 started with much cooler temperatures than normal and up until late summer. A late warm spell saved the season and brought the much needed ripening. We chose extended hang time which allowed for incredible flavor development without any unripe characteristics. Our 2011 wines show very fine natural acidities and perfectly balanced fruit and spice characters with plenty of Washington terroir.

The vineyard for this Merlot is carefully selected for the attributes and characteristics that increase complexity and flavor. Planted in 2000, the southward facing Stone Tree is a premium grape growing site on the Wahluke slope and lies just west of the “saddle” of the Saddle Mountains, Stone Tree is the highest elevation vineyard, with the most relief (elevation change over distance) in the Wahluke Slope. The soil is sandy loam with a little calcium carbonate. Overall this vineyard is impeccably managed and one of our finest vineyards that we have been working with since 2004. Expect the Merlot to be big in structure— in fact, it’s more Cab-like than Merlot.

Appellation/Vineyards:

100 % Stone Tree Vineyards; 100% Wahluke Slope

Final Blend:

96% Merlot, 2 % Petit Verdot & 2% Malbec

Aging:

18 Months in 35% New Oak; 68% French, 22% Hungarian and 10% American

Bottle Date, Alc., & Cases Produced:

July 2, 2013 14.2% 635 Cases

Tasting Notes: Deep cedar and hints of extremely ripe lambert cherry lead to a core of dusted blackberry on the nose. Layers of blackberry, blueberry and marion berry float over a backdrop of leathery cassis in the mouth. The finish is a hint of tobacco, a layer of black currant and a cup full of espresso. This merlot will age gracefully through 2017.