



NORTHSTAR

2008 CABERNET FRANC WALLA WALLA VALLEY

NORTHSTAR VARIETAL WINES

Northstar's focus on creating world-class Bordeaux-style Merlot-based wines begins in the vineyards, where winemaker David "Merf" Merfeld selects the best of the classic blending varietals to create Northstar's Columbia Valley and Walla Walla Merlots. We are pleased to showcase the unique characteristics of these varietals in extremely limited bottlings each vintage.

VINTAGE OVERVIEW

A cool spring and moderate summer in the Walla Walla and Columbia valleys delayed harvest slightly and allowed for extended hang time, leading to fruit with bright acidity and good sugar levels. A hot spell in late August provided good conditions for the end of the growing season and got the fruit to desired ripeness. Harvest date for the Cabernet Franc was October 30th.

VINEYARDS

This limited production wine showcases Cabernet Franc, which grows particularly well in the Walla Walla appellation. A single vineyard provided the Cabernet Franc in this 2008 release: Minnick Hills Vineyard, just north of downtown Walla Walla. A splash of Cabernet Sauvignon from Anna Marie Vineyard and Petit Verdot from Stone Tree Vineyard rounded out the blend.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were destemmed, crushed leaving 40% whole berries, and the Cabernet Franc was inoculated with D-2I, a yeast isolated from the Languedoc region of France, to begin the ten-day fermentation (six days on skins). The must was punched down daily during fermentation, and was then racked into barrels to undergo malolactic fermentation. Racking occurred every three months for clarity during the 16-month aging process. The barrel regime included 92% French Oak and 8% American Oak with 64% new barrels.

TASTING NOTES

"Aromas of vanilla and coconut lead into notes of green olive, dusty earth, tobacco, raspberry, and violet on the rich, mouth-filling palate. Enjoy this wine with poultry or pork dishes."

– David "Merf" Merfeld, Winemaker



TECHNICAL DATA

TOTAL ACIDITY	0.60G/100ML
PH	3.80
ALCOHOL	14.1%
BLEND	84% CABERNET FRANC
	8% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
	8% PETIT VERDOT
CASES	112