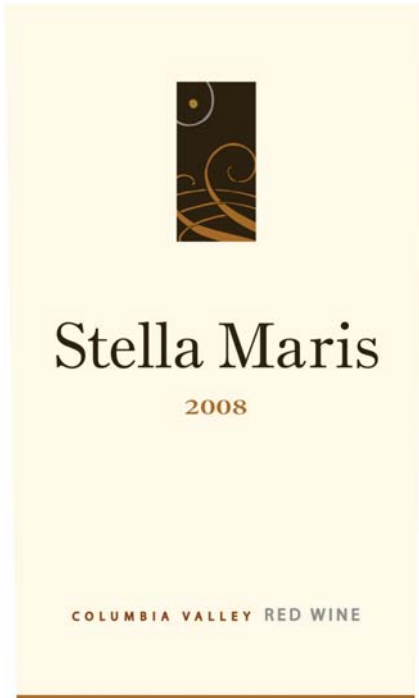


Stella Maris

2008 C O L U M B I A V A L L E Y



V I N T A G E

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.

V I N E Y A R D S

Diversity of vineyards and sub-appellations within the Columbia Valley are Northstar's hallmarks. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot were sourced from the best vineyard sites within the Columbia Valley and Walla Walla Valley. Vines range from 5 - 20 years old and yield grapes with concentrated varietal flavors. Fruit from 8 different vineyard sites and 18 individual lots contributed to the blend. Northstar Estate, Windrow, Minnick Hills, and Horse Heaven Vineyard provided Merlot. Cabernet Sauvignon was sourced from Anna Marie, Northstar Estate, Loess, Windrow, Kiona, and Horse Heaven vineyards. Anna Marie Vineyard provided Syrah. Cabernet Franc sourced from Minnick Hills and Northstar Estate. Petit Verdot was sourced from Northstar Estate Vineyard and Shaw Red Mountain.

W I N E M A K I N G

At harvest, grapes were destemmed and crushed, leaving 40% whole berries intact. Lots were inoculated with Premier Cuvée yeast and fermented separately for seven days with daily punch downs. The wine was racked into barrels for malolactic fermentation and aging. Lots were racked at three month intervals for clarity. The wine aged in 75% French and 25% American oak barrels with 55% new oak. The blend was created after 17 months in the barrel.

T A S T I N G N O T E S

"Stella," as we affectionately refer to this Reserve red blend, is always a fun wine to create and the 2008 vintage is no exception. Layers of smoke, vanilla, spice, raspberry, and cherry flavors on a soft and silky palate make this a very approachable, versatile wine that can be enjoyed with everything from pizza to prime rib."

– David "Merf" Merfeld, Winemaker

T E C H N I C A L D A T A

TOTAL ACIDITY
0.52g/100ml

P H
3.82

ALCOHOL
14.5%

B L E N D
46% Merlot
46% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petit Verdot
3% Cabernet Franc
2% Syrah

C A S E S
4,400

northstarmerlot.com

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