

VINEYARDS

Grown in the Columbia Valley in South-central Washington State.

THE BLENDS

84% cabernet sauvignon

13% merlot

3% syrah

VINTAGE

The Columbia Valley's 1997 growing season started slowly with a cool spring, which delayed bud-break and flowering by two weeks. The fruit caught up in July and August, after a long period of warm, dry weather. Moderating temperatures in September slowed ripening and afforded the fruit more time on the vine. The harvest began in late September and grapes were delivered to the winery rich with varietal flavor.

VINIFICATION

Crop thinning in early summer following veraison reduced yields to less than two tons per acre. Following harvest, the lots were individually fermented in stainless steel tanks on their skins at 85° F for up to 17 days. The lots were individually aged for 19 months in 70% new and 30% one-year-old oak barrels, primarily from the Alliers and Nevers forests of France, and were gently racked with gravity every three months. The finest lots of the vintage were selected

for the final blend. The wine was bottled, unfined in July 1999, and cellar aged for 13 months prior to release. 14% alcohol, total acidity .57 g/100ml, pH 3.61.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"Plump black stone fruits combine with intense aromas of black currant and blackberry. These dark fruits are prevalent mouth flavors along with rich coffee, mocha, vanilla and tobacco. An elegantly structured wine with great depth and a generous finish."

VINTNERS

Col Solare is a winemaking partnership that began in the vineyards of the Columbia Valley with Piero Antinori's enduring attraction to unique viticultural regions. The idea for the wine took root when Antinori met Allen Shoup of Chateau Ste. Michelle and the similarities between the two vintners proved to be as strong as their differences. Known for their eagerness in charting unexplored territory and for challenging conventional thinking, both Antinori and Shoup are acknowledged today for having pioneered wine Renaissances that have led to worldwide esteem for the wines of Tuscany and Washington State, respectively. With the strength of the Columbia Valley as the foundation, along with each vintner's demonstrated willingness to step outside his proven perspective to try to create something unique, Col Solare was born.

