



# NORTHSTAR

## 2011 MALBEC COLUMBIA 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 varieties to create Northstar's Columbia Valley and Walla Walla Merlots. However, he also takes time to produce the finest expressions of each these in his single varietal wines. We are pleased to showcase the unique characteristics of these in extremely limited bottlings each vintage.*

### VINTAGE OVERVIEW

The 2011 vintage experienced cool temperatures during spring which delayed bud break and bloom by three to four weeks. Consistently warm summer temperatures lengthened the ripening period resulting in harvest starting three weeks later than normal. Without the growing season's typical temperature spikes that surpass 100 degrees Fahrenheit, grapes ripened very evenly with the required sugar levels and ideal physiological maturity.

### VINEYARDS

Harvested in November, this limited production Malbec was predominantly sourced from the Canoe Ridge Vineyard. The small amounts of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon were sourced from the Stone Tree Vineyard and Shaw Red Mountain Vineyard respectively.

### WINEMAKING

Grapes were de-stemmed and crushed with 60% whole berries remaining, then inoculated with Premier Cuvée yeast to begin the 10-day fermentation, five of these the berries were fermenting on their skins. During the 17-month aging process, the barrel regime included 80% French oak, 20% in new barrels.

### TASTING NOTES

"Spicy notes of pepper, vanilla and black cherry combine with aromas of cinnamon and dried fruit to round out this soft and elegant Malbec."

– David "Merf" Merfeld, Winemaker

### TECHNICAL DATA

BLEND	77%	MALBEC
	12%	PETIT VERDOT
	11%	CABERNET SAUVIGNON
TOTAL ACIDITY	0.63 G/100 ML	
PH	3.75	
ALCOHOL	13.2%	
CASES	204	

*Food pairings: barbecued pork chops, spicy grilled sausages.*

[www.northstarmerlot.com](http://www.northstarmerlot.com)

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