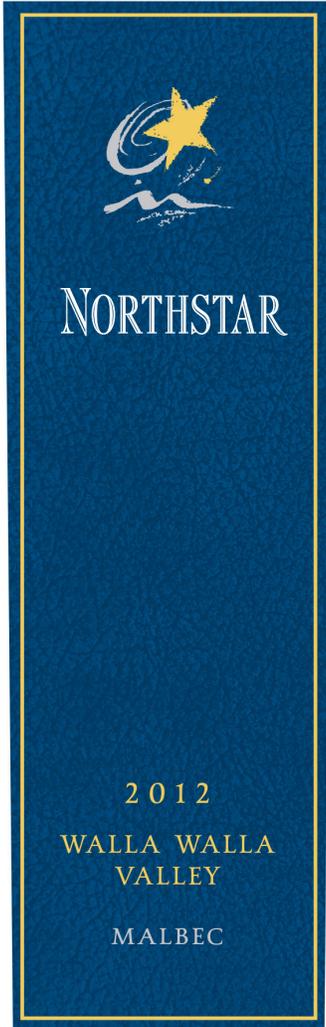




NORTHSTAR

2012 MALBEC WALLA WALLA VALLEY



NORTHSTAR VARIETAL WINES

Northstar's focus on creating world-class Bordeaux-style wines begins in the vineyards where Winemaker David "Merf" Merfeld selects the best of the classic blending varietals to create Northstar's acclaimed Columbia Valley and Walla Walla Merlots. At this time, he also takes time to produce the finest expressions of each of these single varietals. We are pleased to showcase the unique characteristics of these varietals in extremely limited bottlings each vintage.

VINTAGE

The 2012 vintage was a return to the "classic" Washington growing conditions and a much welcomed change from the cooler 2010 and 2011 vintages. Bud break started slightly earlier than normal but cooler temperatures through the early summer delayed veraison slightly. A warming trend began in late July and dry conditions through mid-October were ideal for fruit ripening.

VINEYARDS

This limited production Malbec was predominantly sourced from the Spring Valley Vineyard and Northstar Estate Vineyard. An addition of Merlot from Anna Marie Vineyard and Cabernet Sauvignon from Williams Vineyard rounded out this blend.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were de-stemmed and crushed with 60% whole berries remaining, then inoculated with Premier Cuvee yeast to begin the 10-day fermentation. During the 18 month aging process, the barrel regime included 87% French oak of which 39% were 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	79%	MALBEC
	11%	MERLOT
	10%	CABERNET SAUVIGNON
TOTAL ACIDITY	0.63 G/100 ML	
PH	3.71	
ALCOHOL	14.1%	
CASES	204	

Food pairings: Barbecued and grilled foods