

COLUMBIA·CREST
Reserve

2014 RESERVE MALBEC
SPICE CABINET VINEYARD | HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

ABOUT THIS WINE

This Reserve Malbec is part of a small selection of limited edition Reserve vineyard-designated wines from Columbia Crest. Malbec is often associated with Argentina, but is actually native to France. Although limited in acreage, it grows extremely well in Washington State.

GROWING SEASON

- ▶ After warmer than average 2012 and 2013 vintages, 2014 in Eastern Washington was one of the warmest seasons in decades with favorable temperature conditions extending into fall.
- ▶ Overall, 2014 was a pleasant growing season; ripening was excellent for all varieties in all locations.

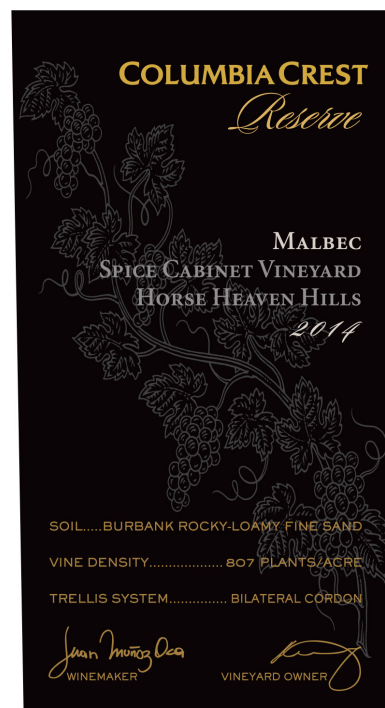
VINEYARDS

- ▶ Spice Cabinet Vineyard is a unique 18-acre site that is adjacent to the Columbia River. A deep sandy soil that has blown over the rock bluffs above and a steep southeast aspect create site characteristics that are similar to areas in the Rhone region in France.
- ▶ The Horse Heaven Hills AVA in Eastern Washington is mostly dry with less precipitation due to the rain shadow effect from the surrounding Cascade Mountain range.
- ▶ The terrain consists of south-facing slopes that provide excellent sun exposure for grape ripening, and protection from cold airflow during the winter months.
- ▶ Strong wind patterns in the Horse Heaven Hills reduce canopy size and density and contribute to even ripening by moderating temperature extremes.

VINIFICATION

- ▶ Fruit was handpicked at the peak of ripeness, destemmed, sorted and placed into small open-top fermenters uncrushed.
- ▶ After fermentation, the juice was placed into 17% new French and 8% new American oak barrels for malolactic fermentation.
- ▶ Lots were kept separate during the 20 months of aging with blending occurring just prior to bottling.

- APPELLATION ▶ HORSE HEAVEN HILLS
- VINEYARDS ▶ SPICE CABINET VINEYARD
- BLEND ▶ 95% MALBEC, 5% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
- ALCOHOL ▶ 15.5%
- TA ▶ 0.56 G/100ML
- PH ▶ 3.76
- CASES CRAFTED ▶ 400



TASTING NOTES

“This robustly structured, inky-hued Reserve Malbec opens with a fruity sensibility of berry compote and spiced-filled aromatics. The palate explodes with flavors of plum, blueberries and currant, with slight notes of rosemary. This is a dense, concentrated wine with silky tannins and a lush, lengthy finish.”

Juan Muñoz Oca

JUAN MUÑOZ OCA ▶ COLUMBIA CREST ▶ WINEMAKER