



NORTHSTAR



2016 CABERNET FRANC 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. He also takes time to produce the finest expressions of other varietals such as Cabernet Franc. We are pleased to showcase the unique characteristics of these varietals in extremely limited bottlings each vintage.

VINTAGE:

The 2016 vintage experienced the best of both worlds with a hot spring and early summer. A cooler than normal end of the ripening season allowed the wines to have ripeness, yet maintain freshness and elegance. The early dry and warm spring, combined with cooler temperatures in August and September, slowed down ripening and resulted in the longest harvest on record in Washington State (August 15-November 15). Overall, 2016 saw very favorable growing conditions, producing wines with nicely resolved tannins and maturity.

VINEYARDS:

This limited production wine showcases Cabernet Franc, which grows particularly well in the Walla Walla appellation. This 100% Cabernet Franc was sourced exclusively from Minnick Hill's vineyard.

WINEMAKING:

Grapes were destemmed, crushed leaving 40% whole berries, and the Cabernet Franc was inoculated with yeast to begin the fermentation. The must was punched down daily during fermentation, and was then racked into barrels to undergo malolactic fermentation. Racking occurred every three months for clarity during the 16-month aging process. The barrel regime included 100% French Oak with 54% new barrels.

TASTING NOTES:

"This lush and elegant wine offers aromas of black olive, pepper, and nutmeg leading into flavors of cherry, raspberry, toasted oak and vanilla."

– David "Merf" Merfeld, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

TA	0.53 G/100ML
pH	3.89
ALCOHOL	13.5%
BLEND	100% CABERNET FRANC
PRODUCTION	200 CASES

FOOD PAIRINGS:
BEEF BORDEAUX, GRILLED
PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS