



2010 Fidelitas Columbia Valley Merlot

columbia valley

TASTING NOTES

The 2010 Columbia Valley Merlot is bold and deeply layered. The wine is nearly opaque with aromas of dark cherry, cocoa, and clove that rise from the glass. These flavors are found on the palate as well with the addition of jammy red fruits, anise, and toasted almonds. Bright acids create a lively wine with a juicy, lasting finish. Drink now through 2019.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Merlot

VINEYARDS

Although still 100% merlot, this wine is a true blend comprised of six Columbia Valley vineyards. Weinbau Vineyard, situated on a warm section of the Wahluke Slope makes up 29% of the blend. 25% of the fruit comes from Boushey Vineyard in the Yakima Valley, while another 25% from Dionysus Vineyard adds to the bright red fruit tones. Conner Lee contributes 14% to the blend, while the balance of the blend comes from Hightower Vineyard on Red Mountain and Stillwater Creek Vineyard in the Columbia Valley.

VINTAGE

The 2010 vintage proved to be one of the coolest growing seasons on record, creating challenges yet great promise in the wines. A cool, wet spring was followed by moderate temperatures throughout the summer, creating lower than usual yields for naturally high acidity and excellent concentration in the fruit. The temperatures warmed up by September and continued with sunshine all the way through the final ripening season for bright fruit tones in the wines.

VINIFICATION and AGING

All fruit for Fidelitas is hand picked and sorted in the vineyard. At the winery, grapes are destemmed and crushed directly into small fermentation tanks where the must is punched down three times daily for an average of seven days. Upon completion of fermentation, the wine is gently pressed off and immediately put into barrel, where it undergoes malolactic fermentation. While aging in oak barrels, the wines are racked quarterly to naturally clarify the wine. The 2010 Columbia Valley Merlot has been aged in 30% new oak (French and American) for 22 months.

RELEASE DATE

July 2012, 746 cases

ALCOHOL

14.3% alcohol by volume

