

# TERO

## ESTATES

### **2012 Plateau Block Cabernet Sauvignon** **Walla Walla Valley AVA | 96 Cases Produced**

#### **Vineyard**

Windrow Vineyard is the oldest commercially planted vineyard (1981) in the Walla Walla AVA. Talks to create the appellation happened on this soil. Situated on a bench created by thousands of years ago where Lower Dry Creek empties into the southern Walla Walla Valley, Windrow has a rare combination of heat during the day followed by a cool breeze flowing out of the Blue Mountains in the evenings. This diurnal shift allows us to grow our grapes until later in the season, increasing maturity while retaining enough acidity to maintain balance and structure. Ellisford Silt Loam is prevalent in this part of the Walla Walla Valley AVA. Windrow varies from deep deposits of windblown loess to shallow layers over gravelly cobble.

Our Plateau Block was planted in 1996, spans 3.5 acres and yields 2.9 tons per acre. Row orientation is northwest to southeast. It is the highest point on the bench at 900 feet and stands right where the cold air exists the Blue Mountains. It enjoys even sun exposure and some of the deepest silt loam soil on our vineyard.

#### **Winemaking**

The 2012 vintage made it so that the making of this wine was easier than other vintages, a welcome vintage after the 2011 difficulties. Tonnage was up by 30% and growing degree days were significantly higher leading to ripe fruit and lots of options. A total lack of rainfall meant uninterrupted harvesting choices and that the pyrazines were quickly cooked out. We aged Plateau Block in 80% new French and 20% neutral French oak.

#### **Tasting Notes**

This is a big, powerful Cabernet. It exhibits a deep ruby color and an intense nose of wild fruits – blackberries, old tree cherries, black currants – with scents of wild roses, mulberry, sweet tobacco, sandalwood, earth, violets and smoldering incense. On the palate, the dark fruit flavors are deep and penetrating, infused with black licorice, dark chocolate, Sumatra roast and Plateau Block silt and loam minerals. On the back, the wine turns rich and chewy, with sensations of macerated berries, roasted walnuts, kirsch and cassis liqueurs, leather, dried spiced cherries and integrated oak, all marching on into a thick, savory, again, penetrating, finely grained and balanced ripe tannin finish.

#### **Awards/Accolades**

19.5/20 Points~ Rand Sealey, A Review of Washington Wines

