

TERO

ESTATES

2014 Herb's Block Merlot Walla Walla Valley AVA | 97 Cases Produced



Vineyards

The Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon for this blend favorite comes from Windrow Vineyard. Windrow is the oldest commercially planted vineyard (1981) in the Walla Walla AVA. Situated 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.

Herb's Block is the tiniest block off of our 25 acre vineyard. Herb's Block is 0.31 acres. Great wines come from small acreage. The elevation here is 860 feet and we pull off an average of $\frac{3}{4}$ ton from the whole block.

Winemaking

Warm temperatures and an abundant, early crop produced picture-perfect grapes with soft tannins in the reds. With no rain, no early freezes and a harvest that was mostly done about two weeks ahead of usual, Doug was a happy winemaker. There were no heat spikes and cool nighttime temperatures so the acidity balances in the young wines look to be ideal. A perfect Indian summer....especially for Merlot.

Tasting Notes

Deep ruby colored, this wine possesses enticing aromas of wild raspberries, old tree cherries, Damson plums, crushed roses, bayberry, pipe tobacco, cedar, rosemary, sage and oriental incense. The flavors mirror the aromatics with lavish dark fruits that are infused with licorice, bittersweet chocolate, French roast and silty South Valley minerals. On the back, the distinct varietal character continues, with notes of roasted berries, nougat, framboise liqueur, dried cherries, leather, pencil shavings and persistent Pomerol-like minerality, followed by a lengthy dryish tannin finish.

Awards/Accolades

19/20 Points~ Rand Sealey, A Review of Washington Wines