



2009 BROWN BOX MERLOT

Freshly fruit-forward with notes of cherry and blackberry, the 2009 Brown Box Merlot enfolds flavors of mocha and a touch of cedar. On the palate the tannins are smooth, mouth filling and well balanced. The fruit finish is lingering and rich.

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AWARDS:

Best Buy/Recommended

Northwest Palate Magazine

Bronze

Tri-Cities Wine Festival

Bronze

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

Bronze

Los Angeles International Wine Festival

WINE SPECIFICATIONS:

Winemakers: Bill Ammons/Steve Hovanes

Bottling date: 6/8/2011, 7/20/2011

Cases Produced: ~2000 cases

Varietal Composition: 88% Merlot, 10% Cab Sauv, 1% Syrah, 1% Cab Franc

Appellation: Rattlesnake Hills, Yakima Valley

Alcohol: 13.9%

Titrateable Acidity: 0.566 g/100mL

pH: 3.61

Residual Sugar: Dry

Tannin: 519 mg/L

CO₂: 290 mg/L

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Harvest Specs: The Merlot grapes for this blend were picked between the 17th and 18th of September, 2009 from blocks 3, 6B and 13 of the Roza Hills Vineyard. Average °Brix at harvest 25.1, TA was .59 mg/100ml, and pH was 3.59.

Fermentation: The blend components were inoculated with two yeasts, Premier Cuvee and Pasteur Red, then tank fermented with pump-overs twice a day. Toasted oak dust was added at crush. To reduce tannins the wines were pressed off skins before the completion of fermentation. ColorPro enzyme was added just before pressing to fix color. The wines were inoculated with ML bacteria in late October and completed malolactic fermentation in December, 2009.

Elevation/Aging: The wines for this blend were aged in tank and were matured using American and French oak staves and chips. Micro-oxygenation was carried out on selected components of the blend and successfully removed herbaceous/green notes that had resulted from excess rachis in the harvested grapes. During aging, the wines were racked three times prior to being blended to tank. Once blended, the wine was DE filtered and Arabinol was then added prior to filtration. The wine was EKS pad and sterile filtered prior to bagging.