



Benchmark 2014

50% Merlot, 32% Malbec, 13% Cabernet Franc,
5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol Level: 13.5%

Levels: pH 3.79 TA 6.4 g/l

Sugar: .48 g/l

Harvest date: October 7th - November 6th, 2014

CSPC +461525

Tasting Notes

Dark plum in colour, this Wine Club classic, is reminiscent of ripe plum, Bing cherries, and subtle vanilla on the nose. Complex flavours of sandalwood, blueberry, and sage please the taste buds. Long fine tannins and milk chocolate linger on the finish.



Harvest Notes

2014 was a stellar year for grape growth in the Okanagan Valley. Due to the warm Winter and early Spring temperature, we welcomed a very early budburst that was recorded three weeks ahead of the normal average. In May, we saw rapid growth in the vineyards that did not let up until early August. This ample growing season gave the vineyard crews plenty of time to keep the vines trimmed and thinned to let enough sun and air reach the ripening clusters. Within a three week time frame, all of the estate vines showed great fruit-set and veraison. This short veraison window ensured even ripening of the fruit-set which resulted in the fruit reaching perfect balance in sugar, acid and phenolic composition leading to spectacular flavours. Once fruit selection finished and the vineyard nets were put up, the Poplar Grove crew waited three weeks before ramping up for harvest. In summary, 2014 was warm, lengthy and balanced with a mighty fine finish at the end.

Winemaking Notes

The component grapes are from four vineyards all located on the Naramata Bench: Chapman Vineyard, Indian Rock Vineyard, Munson Mountain Vineyard, and Hudson Vineyard. The bunches were handpicked and sorted in the vineyard. After de-stemming, the berries were hand sorted again to ensure that only perfect fruit was included in the ferment. The four grape varieties were crushed, held cold for four days and then fermented separately. 25% of the wine spent time in new French oak barriques. The remainder of the wine saw a combination of one and two use French oak barriques. This wine was aged fifteen months in French oak, the final components of the blend were assembled and returned to barrel for full integration for another three months. Aged for an additional eighteen months in our cellar prior to release.

Cellaring Notes

Ready upon release or cellar up to 10 years.