

DESERT WIND

2016 Chardonnay

Cases produced:	625
Vineyard:	Desert Wind Vineyard ('97 Block, South).
Appellation:	Wahluke Slope, WA
Blend:	100% Chardonnay
Harvested:	October 4, 2016
Fermentation:	Stainless steel tank fermentation; full malolactic fermentation; aged sur lie on French oak for ~4 months
Final #s:	Alcohol 13.9 % • TA 0.50 g/100ml • pH 3.72
Release Date:	July 2017
UPC:	768154231991

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2016 growing season in the Wahluke Slope experienced an early start with warm temperatures in the spring and summer, but cool temperatures during harvest extended the growing period. This proved beneficial as the Chardonnay was allowed extra time on the vine to ripen and develop rich and complex fruit flavors. Our Chardonnay underwent full malolactic fermentation to soften the palate and was aged sur lie to enhance mouthfeel. The resulting Chardonnay expresses notes of tropical fruits, brioche, butterscotch, and a hint of vanilla.

VINEYARD NOTES

The Wahluke Slope is located in Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley. The site is considered Zone 3, the hottest in the region. Our 480-acre vineyard is a southern facing block with a two percent slope and shallow, rocky soil. The vines are irrigated with an underground drip system; double catch wires are used to increase air circulation during the growing season. Leaf pulling and cluster thinning are important steps in aiding the ripening of the grapes.

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