



Varietal Composition

39% cabernet franc
38% merlot
23% cabernet sauvignon

Bottling Date

September 17, 2004

Alcohol

13.9% by volume

Time in Oak

23 months

Release Date

May, 2005

Production

628 cases

The Wine:

This 2002 Woodward Canyon Estate Red wine was produced from the finest lots of cabernet franc, merlot, and cabernet sauvignon grown at our Estate Vineyard in the Walla Walla Valley. The Woodward Estate Vineyard produced less than three tons per acre. The 2002 vintage was slightly warmer than 2001, but we were still harvesting cabernet sauvignon until nearly the middle of October to achieve full physiological ripeness.

The wine was fermented in small, open top tanks with native yeast and was punched down and pumped over three times per day. After pressing, settling, and racking this wine went directly to new chateau barrels for aging in our cellar. In late August, the wine was raked from barrel, assembled and bottled on September 17, 2004.

With yields still under three tons per acre, this wine would/could be classified as a premier or grand cru wine based on yield alone if were it produced in Bordeaux. The resulting wine is concentrated with black fruits and cassis. Nuances of cumin and thyme along with spice and vanilla integrate beautifully with rich and opulent fruit. The nose develops in the glass for hours. The texture is supple and the finish is generous and long; it shows strength but still exhibits restraint. This is a sophisticated red wine. With proper cellaring, this wine should age for ten years from vintage.

Reviews:

Wine Spectator Insider, June 1, 2005

Cabernet Franc and Merlot in almost equal parts are supported by a smidge of Cabernet Sauvignon in this firm red. A distinct minty note runs through the rich berry and currant fruit, hinting at sage as it persists nicely on the chewy finish. Best from 2007 through 2012 90

2006 Seattle Sommelier ~ Washington Wine Awards, May 2006

Gold Medal

Wine Press NW, Spring 2006

It's arguable that no one in the Northwest makes wines that stand the test of time better than Rick Small, and here's another release to test that theory. The blend of Cab Franc (39%), Merlot (38%) and Cab Sauv (23%) begins with elegant aromas of black cap raspberries, a peppermint candy cane, sassafras and oak spice. Inside is massive fruit of black currants, blackberries and those same Montana raspberries. There's some intriguing pencil lead tucked in among the power and sophistication of this age-worthy Bordeaux style. *Outstanding*

Compass Wines, Holiday 2005

Rick Small is one of the masters in this state, and this may be the greatest wine yet from this pioneer. Silky and supple, with layers of rich fruit and a complex chocolate and licorice nose. Dynamite wine!