

Varietal Composition

79% Cabernet Sauvignon  
21% Merlot

Alcohol

13.6% by volume

Time in Oak

18 months in new French

Release Date

September 1999

Production

2,636 cases

This 1997 Cabernet Sauvignon was produced from grapes grown on slopes high above the Columbia River at Canoe Ridge Vineyard (85%) and Champoux Vineyard (11%) and in Walla Walla Valley at Pepper Bridge Vineyard (4%).

The 1997 vintage allowed orderly ripening with long, slow maturity of grape flavors in both Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. In vintages when this occurs, we are able to work with physiologically mature fruit which gives extreme ripeness and concentration. This wine was punched down and pumped over in small stainless steel vats three to four times per day. Fermentation length varied between one and two weeks. After very gentle pressing and initial racking, this wine was moved to new French chateau barrels for aging. The wine was bottled unfiltered in April of 1999.

This Cabernet is integrated with spicy new oak, ripe cherry fruit, great structure and a deep red color. The wine is beautifully proportioned with a long, lingering finish of cherry/black fruits, chocolate and toasted oak. This wine may be consumed now, but will benefit greatly from additional cellaring and should easily age for a decade or more.

Reviews:*Tastings, February 2000*

Deep, saturated ruby hue. Brooding aromatics show a high-toned fruit core overlaid by expensive, spicy oak. A firm entry leads to a rich, moderately full-bodied palate with excellent acidic structure. Shows depth and intensity but is still light on its feet. No 14-plus overripe fruit bombs here. Drink now or later. 92

*Sunset Magazine, January 1999*

Washington Wines to Know

*The Insiders Wine Line*

The 1997 Artist Series #6 has a lovely bouquet of cherries, blackberries, currants, violets, mint, strawberry, licorice and spicy toasty vanilla. The lush flavors of blackberries, cherries, licorice, toffee, sandalwood and sweet oak are lush and expansive followed by a long fruity, spicy finish. Extremely attractive! 92 *points, Outstanding.*