



MERLOT

2010/Seven Hills Vineyard/Walla Walla Valley

Vineyard: Seven Hills Vineyard 100 %

Grapes: Merlot, 86 % Cabernet Sauvignon 14%

Vintage Season: Cool spring and summer, moderate autumn, extended ripening period, low yields

Barrels: French Oak, 40% new, 20 months

Time in Cellar: Bottled May, 2012

Aroma: Red cherry, cardamom, vanilla

Taste: Bright sweet red cherry, spice

Alcohol: 14.6%

Lot Size: 325 cases produced

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2010 vintage was long and cool, with a lengthy ripening period. Yields were low, with good sugar development. The vintage shows more tannin and acidity, red fruits, and spice in contrast to 2009. I blended in a small portion of Cabernet Sauvignon to add body and structure. The wine has a lovely dark red color. Red cherry and redcurrant fruit, vanilla, pungent floral notes and a hint of cardamom aromas fill the nose. On the palate, I find bright red fruits, a little black pepper, and a structure that's vibrant, over fine tannins. A cellar life of three to five years could be expected.

Casey McClellan / Winemaker

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SEVEN HILLS