

VANESSA

V I N E Y A R D

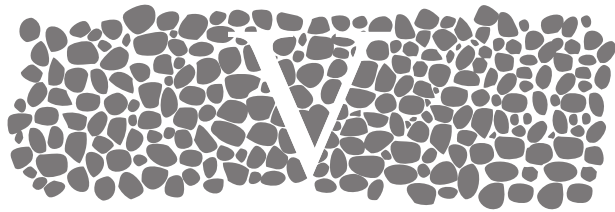


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MERITAGE 2012 Tasting Notes

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Cabernet Sauvignon 50% /

Merlot 27% / Cabernet Franc 23%

Alcohol	14.2%
Residual Sugar	2.4 g/L
TA	5.85 g/L
Cases Produced	440
pH	3.88
Released	2015

Growing Conditions

During the 2012 growing season, late spring and early summer months experienced heavier than usual rainfall, generating dynamic growth that required the grower to substantially shoot thin and remove fruit to preserve the quality of the grapes. The end of the 2012 growing season finished with above average heat units allowing ripening to develop evenly through October, resulting in above average fruit quality.

Terrior and Microclimate

On the hillside overlooking the Similkameen Valley, Vanessa Vineyard grows its grapes on 75 acres of sloping, well drained, rocky terrain. The vines grow in rows of rocks, stressing the plants, absorbing the day heat and imparting that warmth during the cooler nights. This gives the grapes their unique and complex character. The west to southwest exposure on which the rocky vineyard sits is benefitted by the afternoon sun, which contributes to lengthening the growing season and producing low yields of intensely ripe fruit, while capturing the minerality of the soil on which it grows.

Winemaking

The grapes were destemmed and put through a gentle crush before small-batch fermentation and hand punch down to maximize flavour and extraction, malolactic fermentation followed. Each varietal was individually fermented and barrel aged for 6 months before blending and then aged 12 additional months in French and American oak of which 60% were new barrels. Only 100% estate grown fruit was used in the wine. It is the wine maker's goal to produce a wine that is true to the heritage of the terroir. Special attention is paid to balance the oak with the fruit while integrating the minerality of the soil.

Flavour Profile

Deep purple in colour, the wine gives off a rich bouquet of dark fruits, floral aromas and notes of sweet tobacco. This Cabernet based blend is full bodied and intense, yet elegant and feminine with excellent structure and concentrated flavours. Dark berries, fig jam, and cocoa notes fill the mouth layered over silky tannins and minerality from the soil. The fruit and oak are particularly well integrated. The long finish shows baking spices, cinnamon and cardamom, and sweet vanilla. Enjoy as you would any full bodied Bordeaux blend.