

FOOLHARDY

FOOL
HARDY
2019

MALBEC
WALLA WALLA
VALLEY

2019 Walla Walla Valley Malbec

Appellation: Walla Walla Valley

Vineyards (year planted): Southwind (2007)

Varietal Composition: 100% Malbec

Cooperage: 100% French oak - 100% Used

Alcohol: 14.9%

pH: 3.8

Aging: 21 months in French oak barrels

Bottling Date: August 3, 2021

Production: 2 barrels

Tasting Notes

Our inaugural offering of Malbec is loaded with distinctive flavors: a medley of wild berries, blueberries and cardamom spice. It features both intensity and tension, with a coiled energy that promises a decade of delicious drinking. Unlike our other red wines, the Malbec wasn't aged in any new French oak—previously filled barrels better preserve the fruit purity and distinctive aromas that make this Malbec such a standout character.

All of the grapes for this wine come from the Southwind Vineyard in Milton Freewater, just outside Walla Walla. Situated at 1,400 feet of altitude, Southwind has soils loaded with fractured basalt, a very unusual profile for Eastern Washington. The high-stone content and cooler temperatures at altitude give the Malbec from this vineyard a freshness and minerality that make it unique.

An intriguing match with a range of cuisines, the Malbec has the concentration to show well with a grilled steak or lamb roast, as well as the exotic spice tones to complement Indian or Mexican fare. Only 45 cases produced.

2019 Vintage

2019 was an outstanding vintage for Foolhardy. After a cool, wet spring delayed the start of the growing season, summer turned warm but fairly mild, without the blistering heat spikes that can work against fruit freshness. Unlike typical years, when late August and September can be quite hot in Eastern Washington, as of early September weather turned cool and never warmed up again. That worked just fine for us, as all of our vineyards were already nearing ideal ripeness by the end of September. We picked all of our Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards by October 7 (two days before the hard frost that put so many of our colleagues in a logistical panic), and consider ourselves lucky. All in all, the wines are superb, with great aromatic expressiveness, intensity, vibrancy and round, ripe tannins.

Foolhardy is a boutique winery in Walla Walla, Washington, focused on small-lot Cabernet Sauvignon and other Bordeaux varietals. We believe that good winemaking must be transparent, showcasing the energy and vibrancy of ripe grapes.

Foolhardy Vintners
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