

Three Rivers Winery

Winemaker's Notes

Meritage is a category of handcrafted wines blended from traditional Bordeaux grape varieties. Meritage (rhymes with "heritage") is an invented word, neither French nor English, that combines "merit" and "heritage." Our 2005 Red Meritage is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 12% Petit Verdot. This pinnacle of blends shows blackberry, a hint of cedar and nice coffee notes. Firm, well focused tannins will allow this wine to age elegantly into the future.



2005 Meritage Red (Columbia Valley)

Appellation: Columbia Valley
Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon – 63%,
Merlot – 25%, Petit Verdot – 12%
Harvest Brix: 24.7 Average
Final pH: 3.69
Total Acid: 0.58g/100ml

Vintage

The 2005 growing season was beautiful indeed. We started cool then heated up enough to be one of the warmest summers in recent years. Cool and constant fall weather wrapped up the season allowing for enhanced flavor development.

Vineyards

The grapes for the 2005 vintage of our Red Meritage blend came from three different vineyards. The Cabernet Sauvignon is from Bacchus Vineyard, the Merlot from Champoux Vineyard and the Petit Verdot from Snipes Canyon Ranch. Harvest dates varied from September 20th through October 14th. All the fruit is hand harvested into small bins and crushed upon delivery to the winery.

Fermentation & Aging

The fruit was destemmed and crushed into small fermentors where it was either punched down by hand three times a day or pumped over twice daily. Primary fermentation lasted on average seven days upon which the skins were gently pressed off and fermentation was completed in barrel. Malolactic fermentation occurred in small French oak barrels, 50% new, adding a nice depth and complexity to the wine. While aging in oak barrels the wines were racked every three months to naturally clarify them.

