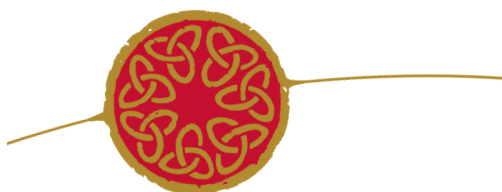


SEVEN HILLS



Merlot

SEVEN HILLS VINEYARD

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

2009

ALCOHOL 14.3% BY VOLUME

MERLOT

2009/Seven Hills Vineyard/Walla Walla Valley

Vineyard: Seven Hills Vineyard 100 %

Grapes: Merlot, 91 % Cabernet Franc 9%

Vintage Season: Late start, warm summer, rapid ripening

Barrels: French Oak, 40% new, 20 months

Time in cellar: Bottled May, 2011

Aroma: Raspberry, cardamom, vanilla, floral

Taste: Lush, bright ripe berry, spice

Alcohol: 14.3%

Lot size: 521 cases produced

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2009 Vintage had a late start, with a warm summer accelerating the ripening period to normal to early dates. The vintage showcases fruit character and ripeness, while tannin and acidity takes a backseat in contrast to 2008. I like to blend in a bit of Cabernet Franc in these warmer years, as it lifts the wine and adds a floral component. The wine shows a lovely dark red color. Red raspberry, vanillin, pungent floral notes and a hint of cardamom aromas fill the nose, as well as a slight dustiness. On the palate, I find lush red fruits, pungent spice, and a structure that's softly bright, over fine tannins. I would think that a cellar life of three to five years is easily expected.

Casey McClellan / Winemaker

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