

AVENNIA

Notes from the Winemaker

2016 Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, limited release

The Story of this Wine.

In 2014, there was something incredibly compelling about the old vine Cabernet grapes harvested from Red Willow Vineyard, and after a few months in barrel, each time we tasted it our intrigue grew.

Soon we knew it was something unique, something that merited a special stage, hence our decision to produce for the first time a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon varietal wine.

We knew from the beginning however that it was a wine we couldn't make every year. And it wasn't until 2016 that this fruit once again demanded our attention.

We know this block of 30+ year old vines at Red Willow Vineyard very well, and that the vines on the long, steep, west-facing slope, are a little different. The lower altitude vines are in a slightly richer soil and get more water, so they are picked separately, sometimes even a week or ten days apart, and they are kept separate in barrel. While the 2014 was all from the upper portion of the block, this 2016 version blended in 17% from the lower section. This brought a darker fruit component as well as a richer texture, while still allowing the concentration and complexity of the upper block to shine. Further, nearly every combination of new and used French oak barrels were trialed to find the best blend. For a wine with this much mass, 83% new French oak was used. We purposefully delayed the release of this second vintage, to allow the wine all the benefits from an additional six months of bottle age. It will only continue to unmask itself with cellaring and we are confident it will still be full of life two decades from now.

Chris Peterson Winemaker Tasting Notes

"This wine, from one of Washington's top vintages, opens with a beautiful and complex nose of red and black currants, crushed roses, fresh sage and thyme, dark chocolate, and a hint of cardamom. The flavors are palate-coating and rich with crème de cassis, flood minerals, a piquant herb note, as well as deeper notes of dark chocolate, baking spices, and damp earth. The richness on the palate now conceals some formidable tannins. So, while this wine is certainly enjoyable now, expect it to live for a long, long time." - CP

Jeb Dunnuck - 95+ points barrel score

"Another gem from this great winemaker. Deep purple-colored, with a huge perfume of blackberries, crème de cassis, cedarwood, pencil lead, and graphite, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness and depth, nicely integrated acidity, and building, ripe tannins.

Give bottles 3-4 years and it too will cruise for 15-20 years or more." - JD

Vintage Scores

2016: Jeb Dunnuck - 95+ barrel score

2014: Wine Advocate - 97 points

Blend: 100% Red Willow Cabernet Sauvignon

Winemaking: Aged 21 months in 83% new

French oak. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

AVA: Yakima Valley

Cases: 140

Release: October 5, 2019

Alcohol: 14.6%

