

COLUMBIA·CREST *Reserve*

2010 RESERVE MERLOT STONE TREE VINEYARD

GROWING SEASON

- ▶ The 2010 vintage was cooler than the past vintages; bud break arrived on schedule in early April, but a cool, wet spring delayed flowering and reduced fruit set across many varieties.
- ▶ An unusually cool summer produced dramatic differences in ripening between warmer and cooler sites, with veraison extending into September in some cooler areas.
- ▶ However, naturally low yields, combined with over a month of consistently warm weather from late September through late October, produced phenolic ripeness and flavor development with extraordinary natural acidity.
- ▶ Cool, wet weather returned in late October, an appropriate bookend to a challenging harvest.

VINEYARDS

- ▶ Stone Tree Vineyard graces the beautiful Wahluke Slope on the hillside. The flat agricultural site allows for viticulture uniformity in plant vigor and ripening while the vine roots tap into the mineral-rich under layer, adding to the grapes' character.
- ▶ Hot summer days, warm evenings complement the gravel and silty loam soils of this low yielding vineyard site.
- ▶ Low rainfall stressed the vines, and irrigation was applied judiciously to create concentrated varietal expression.

VINIFICATION

- ▶ Hand-picked grapes were crushed with 30%-40% whole berries remaining.
- ▶ Primary fermentation lasted up to 6 days on the skins in small open top fermenters.
- ▶ The wine finished primary fermentation and went through malolactic fermentation in oak barrels.
- ▶ The wine aged in 50% new and 50% once-used French oak barrels for 18 months.

APPELLATION ▶ WAHLUKE SLOPE

VINEYARDS ▶ STONE TREE VINEYARD; BLOCK 15

HARVEST DATE ▶ OCTOBER 4TH 2010, OCTOBER 25TH 2010

BLEND ▶ 90% MERLOT BLOCK 15, 10% CABERNET SAUVIGNON BLOCK 14

FERMENTATION ▶ UP TO 6 DAYS ON THE SKINS

BARREL REGIME ▶ 18 MONTHS, 50% NEW AND 50% ONCE-USED FRENCH-OAK

ALCOHOL ▶ 13.5%

TOTAL ACIDITY ▶ 0.56G/100ML

PH ▶ 3.60

CASES GRAPED ▶ 50

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STONE TREE VINEYARD MERLOT
WAHLUKE SLOPE
2010

TASTING NOTES

"This Merlot is broad and intense without losing focus. Its ample density and dark plum and currant complement the bittersweet cocoa and tangy hint of iron, which is characteristic of the vineyard."

Juan Muñoz Oca

JUAN MUÑOZ OCA, WINEMAKER COLUMBIA CREST ▶ WINEMAKER