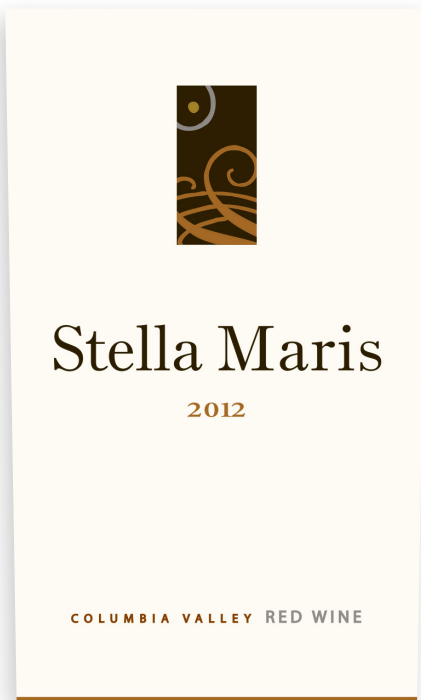


Stella Maris

2012 C O L U M B I A V A L L E Y



V I N T A G E

The 2012 vintage experienced cool temperatures during spring, which delayed bud break and bloom by three to four weeks. Consistently warm summer temperatures lengthened the ripening period and resulted in harvest starting three weeks later than normal. Without the typical 100-degree Fahrenheit temperature spikes during the growing season, the grapes ripened very evenly with the required sugar levels and ideal physiological maturity.

V I N E Y A R D S

Use of fruit from diverse vineyards and sub-appellations within the Columbia Valley are among Northstar's hallmarks. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, and Cabernet Franc were sourced from the best vineyard sites within the Columbia Valley and Walla Walla Valley. Fruit from these vines provide this wine with its concentrated varietal flavors. Fruit from six different vineyard sites contributed to the 2012 blend. Anna Marie and Mike Andrews vineyards provided the Merlot fruit. Cabernet Sauvignon was sourced from Williams and Mattawa vineyards. Anna Marie and Williams vineyards provided the Syrah. Finally, Cabernet Franc from Minnick Hills and Spring Valley vineyards rounded out this blend.

T E C H N I C A L D A T A

B L E N D

48% Merlot
40% Cabernet Sauvignon
8% Syrah
4% Cabernet Franc

T O T A L A C I D I T Y

0.55 g/100 ml

P H

3.72

A L C O H O L

14.2%

C A S E S

524

F O O D P A I R I N G S

Pair this wine with pizzas, pastas and BBQ.

W I N E M A K I N G

At harvest, grapes were destemmed and crushed, leaving 40% whole berries intact. Lots were inoculated with Premier Cuvée yeast and fermented separately for seven days on skins with daily punch downs. The wine was racked into barrels for malolactic fermentation and aging. The lots were racked at three month intervals for clarity. The wine aged in 80% French and 20% American oak barrels with 40% new oak. The blend was created after 18 months in the barrel.

T A S T I N G N O T E S

"Refined and approachable, this vintage of our reserve red blend, affectionately known as "Stella," is rich and aromatic with notes of vanilla, cherry, cassis, and a subtle toasted marshmallow finish. Enjoy!"

– David "Merf" Merfeld, Winemaker

northstarmerlot.com

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