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PTS



2020 Merlot

Columbia Valley, Washington

VINTAGE

I'm not sure many will remember 2020 for its vintage characteristics. Perhaps you'll remember more the wines you consumed during 2020, rather than the wines that hailed from its harvest. No matter. For winemakers, the season unfolded into a welcoming respite in an otherwise unprecedented and unrelenting year. Nature gave us a remarkably unremarkable harvest - which is not necessarily a bad thing. A Goldilocks vintage, if you will: not too hot, not too cold. Just right. Things were kicked off on time, with a frost-free, temperate spring. Summer heat arrived in full force, while a surprise fall freeze never materialized - instead we were granted an autumn that gave us an extended ripening window for the reds in need. Maturation moved along as it should, acids and sugars came in balanced, the resultant juice expressive and well-defined within its varietal.

I would be remiss not to mention the human factors that appeared throughout 2020's harvest; an ongoing pandemic (have you heard of it?) and wildfires tore through the Pacific Northwest, cloaking our region in smoke. Fortunately, we were already wearing masks... In the end, we made it through both unscathed - with a healthy cellar team and grapes that came in without a touch of smoke taint. Is this what they call luck?

When you open up a bottle of 2020 Barnard Griffin, you'll find whites that are balanced with a firm backbone of acid and vibrant fruit flavors, while reds will be well-integrated, of reasonable alcohol and intense fruit.

HARVEST & WINEMAKING

78.5% Merlot 9% Syrah 8% Cab 4% Petit Verdot .5% Durif

Pumpovers 2 times daily; pressed at 1-3% sugar; peak fermentation temperature 85 degrees; aged in 14 months in barrel

Bottled in April, 2022. Total production was 1,940 cases.

TASTING NOTES

A fragrant, aromatic Merlot offering enticing aromas and flavors of plum and dark berries accompanied by inviting toasted oak notes. Features a generously rich texture balanced by juicy acidity. Pair with foods that require a fruity, flavorful young red.

VINEYARDS

Sage Moor Vineyard | Columbia Valley
Black Rock Vineyard | Yakima Valley
Lonesome Spring Ranch | Yakima Valley

DETAILS

ABV | 13.5%
pH | 3.57
TA | .67
RS | 0.03g / 100 mL
ML | 100%

BARNARD  GRIFFIN

www.barnardgriffin.com | 878 Tulip Lane, Richland, Washington 99352

Greg Buzzell | National Sales Manager, Western Region - (206) 391-5271 | Tom Champine | National Sales Manager - (971) 235-4333

