

October 2020

AVENNIA *Notes from the Winemaker*

2017 Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, limited release

The Story of this Wine.

This is the third release of our 100% Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. First made in 2014, then again in 2016 and 2017, this is a wine that we've only produced when the conditions are just right. In 2014, we found something incredibly compelling about the old vine Cabernet grapes harvested from Red Willow Vineyard. The 30+ year old block of vines is unique--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, the 2016 and 2017 versions blended in about 20% 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. We allow this wine to benefit from an additional six months of bottle aging prior to release.

Unfortunately, the old vines at Red Willow Vineyard from which we sourced the fruit for this wine were recently uprooted due to leaf roll. 2018 will be the last vintage made from the old vine fruit.

Winemaker Tasting Notes

"This is another singular expression of a special site in Washington. Reflecting the elegance of the vintage, this wine features dark red cherries, raspberries, high cacao chocolate, fresh herbs, and tobacco. On the palate, the red and blue fruits interlay beautifully with notes of espresso powder, herb notes, and a touch of slate minerality. Impeccably balanced between the richness of the fruit and French oak notes, and the elegance characteristic of this vintage, this wine is approachable now, and will age for 15 years easily." - Chris Peterson

95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Red Willow Vineyard is all Cabernet sourced from Mike Sauer's vineyard in the Yakima Valley. Wonderful cassis, red and black currants, tobacco, dried violets, and loamy earth notes all define the bouquet, and it's medium to full-bodied and balanced, with a seamless texture and a great, great finish. This powerful, nicely concentrated wine stays light and weightless on the palate. It's approachable today, but the smart money is on giving bottles 2-4 years of bottle age. It should evolve for 20-25 years." - JD

Vintage Scores

2017: 95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck; **2016:** 95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck;
2014: 97 points - Wine Advocate

AVA: Yakima Valley

Blend: 100% Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Winemaking: Aged 20 months in 80% new French oak. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Cases: 119

Retail: \$95.00/btl | \$250.00/mag

Release: October 10, 2020

Alcohol: 14.6%

