



AIRFIELD

E S T A T E S

2019 AVIATOR



Marcus Miller, Winemaker
Travis Maple, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

14.2% Alcohol
3.74 pH
6.1 g/L TA
395 cases produced

*Produced in a Vegan Manner
(No animal by-products used
in production of this wine)*

Airfield Estates is a fourth generation family farm based in the Yakima Valley crafting a wide range of estate grown wines of exceptional quality. As the name suggests, Airfield Estates has ties to aviation. A portion of the family property operated as a training base for hundreds of Army Air Corps pilots during World War II.

VINEYARD

Our estate vineyard was established in 1968 and is situated along the foothills of the Rattlesnake Mountains in the heart of the Yakima Valley AVA. Today, we grow over 20 wine grape varieties spanning over 800 acres. Our vineyard has spectacular views of Mount Rainier and Mount Adams. These sunny slopes are blessed with a long growing period, extended summer daylight, and cool evenings that yield well-balanced, world class wines.

VINTAGE

The 2019 vintage started off with a very mild winter, then out of nowhere, we saw record snow accumulations in late February that lasted until early March. Thankfully, this did not affect buds on the dormant grapes, but it did delay bud break by approximately 2 weeks, which had some residual effects on the overall ripening process. We did see a decent amount of heat accumulation, but the 2019 vintage will go down as a cooler vintage for Washington State. Our typically amazing October was very trying for us with not just one but two freezing periods that made our winemaking decisions ever more challenging. The first frost we saw we were happy with the results thinking we have escaped a terrible outcome in the vineyards, and then 9 days later we were hit very hard and we saw considerable frost damage to all our grapes. As we are seasoned winemakers, we took this challenge head on and decided to purchase brand new state-of-the-art equipment including an optical sorter that would eject bad and damaged grapes before any of these grapes went into a fermenter or press. The new equipment worked as amazing for us and the results in the wines are more than pleasing for us as well. Challenging vintages like 2019 really let you know as a winemaker what you are made of, and we at Airfield Estates not only took this challenge head on, but we excelled and the wines we produced from this vintage are going to be more consumer-friendly with higher acidity and lower alcohols but the fruit aspect is exceptional.

WINEMAKING

All of the varieties for this blend were sourced from reserve tier blocks on our estate vineyard. These blocks were cropped to low yields to produce dark, concentrated flavors while balancing out tannins. Each element was harvested at optimal maturity and then sent to small fermenters. Each fermenter was cold soaked for 48 hours before being inoculated with very specific yeast strains selected to help each wine achieve certain flavor and mouthfeel profiles. Although our extraction protocol for each variety varied, we generally achieved 80% of our extraction early on before 8% alcohol. After that point, we tapered off to gently extract the wine dry on the skins. Once each lot was fully extracted, some lots were left on the skins for an extended maceration to develop more exotic and compelling flavors while other lots were sent to the press to press the remaining juice left in the grapes. Each wine was barreled down into exclusive French oak barrels and was inoculated for malolactic fermentation. During this process, the lees were stirred twice a month for three months to help build roundness and naturally soften the wines. Overall, the wine was aged for 20 months in exclusive French oak (68% new French oak, 22% 2-year-old French oak, and 10% neutral French oak). A wine of this caliber was created to be enjoyed in its youth, yet has the structure to age for many years to come.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

TASTING NOTES

This Bordeaux style blend is an aromatic powerhouse that showcases the wine's four varieties to perfection. Aromas of cherry, fig, cola, and hints of seared sandalwood carry through to the palate. Robust and well-structured, this wine displays secondary flavors of dark espresso, black currant, and fresh pipe tobacco. Restrained tannins and notes of sweet oak spices leave a lasting impression on the finish. Enjoy now through 2036.

