



AIRFIELD

ESTATES

2021 RED WINE



Marcus Miller, Winemaker
Travis Maple, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

14.0% Alcohol

3.84 pH

6.0 g/L TA

600 Cases

Bottled 5/25/23

*Produced in a Vegan Manner
(No animal byproducts used
in production of this wine)*

Airfield Estates is a fourth generation family farm based in the Yakima Valley cultivating a wide range of premium grapes and crafting 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. The pride, passion, and dedication of these heroes provide a great source of inspiration as we strive to pay tribute to them with our wines.

VINEYARD

Established in 1968, our estate vineyard was one of the first commercial vineyards in Washington State. Our first plantings were Riesling, Gewürztraminer, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Over the years, we have expanded to over 20 varieties spanning approximately 830 acres. Nestled on the foothills of the Rattlesnake Mountains in the heart of the Yakima Valley AVA, our vineyard has one of the most 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 2021 vintage will be recorded as one the warmest in Washington State history. With a mild winter and a warm spring, we saw bud break during the second week of April, about 1-2 weeks earlier than average. Then in late June, we experienced a heat wave for approximately 6 weeks. During this time, we saw over 35 days of 100+ degree temperatures, with some daily highs nearing 118 degrees! This period of extreme heat began when the grapes were in a cluster and berry size development stage, causing grapes to stress out weeks before we vintners would prefer. Smaller berry size led to an overall 30% reduction in crop sizes for us. Nevertheless, the flavors that these smaller berries produced were phenomenal! By the end of August, we had brought in nearly 150 tons of wine grapes, hands down an August record for us at Airfield. October started off with nice warm temperatures and the pace of grape harvesting was going very well with ideal ripeness and exceptional quality. By the third week of October, we saw several freezing events causing our canopies to die. In the end, the 2021 vintage made outstanding wine. Our white wines showcase bright fruit aromas with brisk acidity. Our red wines display dark fruit elements with structure and finesse. The wines created from 2021 will be age worthy and enjoyable in their youth and will be wines that will make a lasting impression.

WINEMAKING

Sourced from our Estate Vineyard in the Yakima Valley AVA, each varietal in this red blend was harvested at optimal maturity between mid and late October. The grapes were destemmed but not crushed, and sorted using our optical sorter before being processed into stainless steel fermenters of varying sizes. The extraction method varied by varietal to highlight its unique characteristics. Following fermentation, the wines were aged in French oak barrels and inoculated for malolactic fermentation. The lees were stirred twice a month for three months, enhancing the wine's roundness and naturally softening its texture. After 10 months of aging, the final blend was crafted and aged together for an additional eight months. The wine spent a total of 18 months in 100% French oak, including 15% new oak, 35% two-year-old oak, and 50% neutral oak. The result is a blend where each varietal contributes to complex, evolving flavors, balanced with oak influence and a smooth mouthfeel.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2021 Red Wine is a refined and approachable Bordeaux Blend, showcasing rich aromas of blackberry jam, red cassis, and blueberry compote, with subtle hints of cola, dark chocolate, and graphite. On the palate, delicate tannins are balanced by secondary flavors of smoked dates, black cherry, and sweet espresso. The wine concludes with a lingering finish, marked by savory toasted oak notes that persist. Best enjoyed now through 2032, with peak maturity expected in 2029.

AirfieldWines



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