



AIRFIELD

ESTATES

2021 RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Marcus Miller, Winemaker
Travis Maple, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

14.2% Alcohol
3.75 pH
6.0 g/L TA
690 Cases

*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

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 2021 vintage will be recorded as one of 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 to 2 weeks earlier than average. Then we experienced a heat wave in late June that lasted roughly six weeks with over 35 days of 100°+ temperatures and some daily highs nearing 118° Fahrenheit. 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 size for us. On the bright side, these smaller berries produced phenomenal flavors. We also saw rapid ripening at a pace last seen in 2015, creating a very early harvest start. By the end of August, we had brought in nearly 150 tons of sparkling wine grapes and Sauvignon Blanc grapes, hands down an August record for us at Airfield. By the end of September, we had crushed every white varietal, which was beneficial for us in winemaking as we could then give 100% of our attention to red varieties. October started 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 did see several freezing events causing our canopies to die. With only a limited amount of fruit remaining, it was easy for us to harvest the last remaining fruit before the end of October. In the end, the 2021 vintage made outstanding wine. Our red wines display dark fruit elements with structure and finesse. The wines created in 2021 will be enjoyable in their youth but also age-worthy, making a lasting impression.

WINEMAKING

Our 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is crafted from the finest blocks of our estate vineyard. From winter through harvest, we meticulously manage the vineyard to ensure a small crop load, resulting in grapes with concentrated flavors and ripeness. Hand-harvested in late October, the grapes were destemmed, sorted with an optical sorter, and cold-soaked for 48 hours before being inoculated with three yeast strains. During fermentation, we focus on bold flavors and balanced structure by aggressively extracting early with aerated pump-overs and délestage, tapering off as alcohol develops to avoid over-extraction. After fermentation, the wine underwent a 17-day extended maceration to enhance dark fruit flavors, richness, and complexity. The free-run wine was separated from the press wine and then aged for 22 months in 85% new French oak and 15% 1 to 3-year-old French Oak. Malolactic fermentation followed by lees stirring over four months added softness and texture, creating a rounder mouthfeel. This meticulous process results in a bold, elegant Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon with rich flavors and depth.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is a full-bodied classic with complex aromatics of black currant, Bing cherry, roasted dates, smoked sandalwood, and hints of graphite. The palate offers a rich structure, fine-grained tannins, and balanced acidity. Flavors of cassis blend seamlessly with cherry cola, pipe tobacco, and subtle notes of seared leather, leading to a long, lingering finish of toasted oak and dark bramble berry. Enjoy now through 2040, with peak maturity around 2036.

