



AIRFIELD
E S T A T E S

2022 DAUNTLESS



Marcus Miller, Winemaker
Travis Maple, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

14.3% Alcohol
3.80 pH
5.8 g/L TA
2,320 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

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 2022 vintage in the Yakima Valley was a bit of a roller coaster. A mild winter extended into spring with early frost periods and winter-like conditions in April. The cool spring delayed bud break by a few weeks and caused delayed growth in the vineyard as we moved into summer. Each vineyard block was meticulously managed to ensure a ripe crop by harvest. We lowered clusters per vine and allowed for more sunlight exposure. By mid-July, temperatures finally started warming up and led to record growth in a short amount of time. Fortunately, warm summer temperatures extended into fall, helping to lengthen the growing season and allowing the grapes to continue to ripen. Harvest ended up being delayed approximately three weeks from a typical year. We gratefully did not experience any fall frost events, so the grapes had extended hang time on the vines to achieve optimal ripeness and excellent flavor development. Overall, the 2022 vintage displays ripe flavors, bountiful fruit aromas, and balanced acidity. The wines can be enjoyed in their youth, or they can cellar for many years to come.

WINEMAKING

Our 2022 Dauntless is exclusively crafted from grapes grown in our estate vineyard, with each component carefully selected from blocks best suited to each varietal. This meticulous process aims to highlight vibrant red and dark fruit characteristics, balanced oak nuances, and soft tannins for a harmonious wine. Harvested at peak maturity in late October, the grapes were destemmed (but not crushed), sorted with an optical sorter, and then gently transferred to fermenters. After a 48-hour cold soak, fermentation began with multiple yeast strains. We used an aggressive extraction approach early on to capture color and flavor, transitioning to gentler methods as fermentation progressed to achieve a soft, lush finish while preserving balance and structure. Post-fermentation, the wine was transferred to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation, with lees stirred biweekly for up to five months to enhance mouthfeel, build structure, and naturally soften the wine. The final blend was aged for 16 months in 100% French oak, consisting of 39% new, 25% 1 to 3-year-old, and 36% neutral barrels. The result is a refined wine showcasing depth, elegance, and a rich, silky texture.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2022 Dauntless is a Right Bank-inspired blend of 56% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc, and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of dark berries, sweet espresso, and cassis are complemented by subtle hints of roasted herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate unfolds flavors of blackberry jam, cherry juice, and smoked dates, finishing with refined tannins, balanced acidity, and lingering notes of smoked leather and savory oak. Enjoy this wine now through 2035, with its peak maturity expected around 2029. The Dauntless promises a captivating journey in every glass.

