



2017 Chester-Kidder Red Wine
Columbia Valley
Gilles Nicault, Winemaker

Tasting Notes: Dark in color with generous aromas of wild blackberries wrapped around a pleasantly earthy core that's accented by hints of oak spice. On the mid-palate, graphite and black licorice are complemented by a burst of vibrant fruit that lingers across a lengthy finish. A beautifully integrated wine with a broad, polished mouthfeel.

Vintage: A cool, wet spring delayed budbreak by a few weeks, but temperatures warmed nicely for bloom. Conditions moderated in early summer before warming again in July to drive total heat accumulation a bit above average for the season. Harvest began toward the end of August, then temperatures cooled considerably in mid-September to extend hang time and allow the grapes to reach full physiological maturity without spiking sugars. The resulting wines are rich and expressive, displaying excellent acidity and structure that is reflective of the quality of the vintage.

Winemaking: Select lots of Cabernet Sauvignon underwent 40-day extended maceration to produce intense color, flavor and firm tannins to stand up to 30 months of barrel aging in tight-grained French oak barrels (85% new). The extra time in barrels ensures the fruit is fully integrated and enhances the mid-palate with an extra layer of complexity. The result is a supple, layered wine that drinks well on release but also rewards time in the cellar.

Vineyards: Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah grapes from Candy Mountain give this wine its structure and beautifully textured mouthfeel. Stone Tree Vineyard (Wahluke Slope) adds juicy, ripe cherry flavors. Dionysus Vineyard Petit Verdot, always a standout site for this variety, is a lovely blender contributing balanced acidity and dark fruit character that lifts the finished wine.

Alcohol: 14.9%

pH: 3.92

TA: 0.43 grams/100ml

Blend: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon

26% Syrah

6% Petit Verdot

Production: 2,190 cases