



## TASTING NOTES



### 2004 Columbia Valley Red Paintbrush

80 percent Merlot: Milbrandt Vineyard and Alder Ridge Vineyard

17 percent Cabernet Sauvignon: Kiona Vineyard

3 percent Syrah: Rustic Ridge Vineyard

#### Harvest and Fermentation

All grapes were hand picked when flavors were judged optimal for the variety and the vineyard. Hand sorting of the grape clusters to remove both imperfect grape clusters and material other than grapes and a gentle destemming is sine qua non. Fermentation was conducted "whole berry" with each lot punched down two times daily. Temperature of fermentation varies from vineyard to vineyard. Pressing of the grapes was determined strictly by tasting the fermenting wine. The malo-lactic fermentation was completed in barrel.

#### Élevage

The merlot wine was barreled in new and used American Oak, Cabernet Sauvignon in new and used French Oak, and Syrah in used French Oak. The blend was put together in March 2005 and the Red Paintbrush was placed in used French and American Oak until bottling in January 2006.

#### Winemakers' Notes

Red Paintbrush is a unique, velvety, and polished Merlot based wine. Merlot is the core with a brushstroke of Syrah for a hint of spicy richness and Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon adds length and intensity. Our goal is not to make another Washington Merlot but to make a "One-of-a-Kind" Red Paintbrush.

14.1% alcohol • 623 cases produced

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