



2009 Chester Kidder Red Wine
Columbia Valley
Gilles Nicault, Winemaker

Tasting Notes: Black cherry and cocoa aromas compliment vibrant flavors of blackberry, licorice and cassis. Hints of graphite and a subtle earthiness provide layers of complexity. With its firm structure and polished tannins, the velvety texture glides easily across a lengthy finish.

Vintage: An unusually cool spring in 2009 resulted in a slow start to the growing season, but by June the weather warmed considerably and ideal growing conditions persisted through September. A near perfect summer and lower than average yields caused the grapes to ripen quickly and evenly sparking one of the earliest and fastest harvests on record and yielding wine with deep color and exceptional concentration.

Winemaking: Working with some of the best vineyards in the Columbia Valley, Gilles draws on his considerable experience in Washington State to craft a complex, rich wine. He is equally meticulous about his selection of coopers, relying on tight-grained barrels made from air-dried staves to enhance the aromas and flavors of the wine without overpowering it. This is particularly important given that the wine is aged for 30 months in French oak barrels (predominately new). Extended barrel aging helps to integrate the wood, tannins and fruit while enhancing the mouth feel and overall impression of the wine.

Vineyards: Located just above Red Mountain, Candy Mountain is one of the warmest vineyards in the Columbia Valley. Cabernet Sauvignon ripens beautifully here and gives the wine its backbone and richness. Candy Mountain Syrah adds deep color and brings black cherry and cassis to the wine. The remaining Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from Dionysus Vineyard, which provides structure and brings firm tannins to the wine that allow for long-term aging. Petit Verdot from Stone Tree Vineyard on the Wahluke Slope imparts dense, rich character and adds a lively mouth feel. Cabernet Franc from Weinbau Vineyard, also on the Wahluke Slope, adds an earthy note and just the right touch of Old World elegance.

Alcohol: 14.9%

pH: 3.72

TA: 0.58 grams/100ml

Blend: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon
28% Syrah

17% Petit Verdot

5% Cabernet Franc

Production: 989 cases