

DILLON



2021 WeatherEye Viognier Version 2

Vineyard		WeatherEye Vineyard
Location		North Face Block 12
Bottling Date		August 2023
Composition		100% Viognier
RELEASE DATE		Autumn, 2025



VINTAGE SUMMARY

The 2021 vintage in Washington had some challenges, with a *record-breaking heat event* in late June and historically low harvest yields. Despite these challenges, the quality of the wines is outstanding. The grapes were smaller and more concentrated, resulting in wines with exceptional flavors and complexity. *There's just not much!*

The Columbia Valley experienced four consecutive days with temperatures reaching as high as 118 degrees Fahrenheit. The event was well forecasted, so growers could water their vineyards. Although most growers believed their vineyards coped well with the extreme heat, the timing of the heat, coupled with other factors, *resulted in a substantial reduction in berry and cluster size.*

WINEMAKING NOTES

Block Twelve lies high on the north face of WeatherEye Vineyard, at similar elevation and exposure to our Block Six Viognier, but planted in the traditional échalas style with one vine per post. The block is naturally lower yielding, its shallow, wind-swept soils producing stingy berries with little juice. In 2021, a warm vintage that brought concentration and intensity, the harvest was meager enough to fill just a single new French oak puncheon.

Clusters were hand-picked and field-sorted before being blanketed with dry ice and kept cool in the cellar for several days. Foot crushing and a bit of skin contact allowed for a gradual breakdown of the fruit, easing an otherwise reluctant pressing. Fermentation unfolded natively in puncheon, slow and unforced, followed by full, natural malolactic conversion. Élevage stretched to 22 months on lees, with only one racking before bottling. The wine then rested for 24 months in bottle before release. All actions in the cellar were minimal, aimed at preserving freshness, tension, and the complexity inherent to this site.

TASTING NOTES

Block Twelve Viognier reveals the more textural, vertical side of the variety - poised, mineral, with compelling tension. The nose is restrained yet layered: citrus peel, white peach skin, crushed stone, and fennel, interwoven with the herbal lift of WeatherEye's garrigue.

On the palate, the 2021 vintage brings added weight and textural intensity. Orchard fruit is carried by saline minerality and a driving line of acidity, but there is also a richness born of the heat of the season—chalk, verberna, and a subtle bitter-orange note adding dimension and length. The result is a Viognier that feels both taut and substantial, coiled yet textural, marked by the singular conditions of the year.

Where Block Six (Version 3, released Autumn 2023) can show a broader, more supple and fruit-driven expression, Block Twelve speaks in finer detail. With over two years of élevage and another two years in bottle before release, the wine has already gained harmony and composure. Just one puncheon produced, it reflects both the singularity of its block and the ambition of WeatherEye - a Viognier of weight, texture, and lift, released only when ready.