



2021 LEMMA

TASTING NOTES

A perennial favorite at Eleven, and it's easy to see why. Take the very best part of eating cherries or raspberries – that burst of flavor when you first bite into them – and stretch it out over an entire mouthful. It's always a cherry festival with Lemma, and it brings together both black and red cherry flavors in a way that no varietal wine can. Plus throw in lots of subtle complexities – cedar, sage, vanilla. Bullet points: Medium body, medium-minus acid, medium-minus tannin. Black and red cherry flavors.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Continual improvement of winemaking techniques requires frequent and ongoing experimentation. Performed within the constraints of a working winery, the winemaker's not-insignificant challenge is to design experiments that offer the potential for discovering improvements while minimizing the risk of bad batches. The first vintage of this wine was such an experiment – an ad hoc cofermentation of Lemberger and Malbec grape (though subsequent vintages have been blended, rather than cofermented). This combination was the inspiration for the name, unsurprisingly, but there is a double entendre here as well: the word “lemma” is a real word – a mathematical term defined as “a subsidiary proposition introduced in proving some other proposition.” In other words, it's something that you discover on the way to getting to the main result. In our case, the main result is our Malbec and Lemberger (labeled LEM) varietal wines. But the Lemma is a delightful side street along the way, no?

Composition

60% Lemberger, 40% Malbec, the former from Red Mountain and the latter from Yakima Valley

Appellation

Washington

Crush Pad

Destem and light crush

Yeast

AWRI 1503

Fermentation

Small open-top fermentors, punched down by hand

Time on Skins

Typically 14-21 days for component varieties

Aging

23 months in barrels

Oak

23% new French oak

Alcohol

14.5%

Production

219 cases

Bottled

August 8, 2023



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PAIRINGS

Think crush next door meets candlelight dinner. Comfortable enough to pair with a weeknight staple such as casserole or dress it up with, duck, pork or veal roasts. Either way, you're with your true love. If you want to keep that romantic dinner short and light, go for some pâté or charcuterie, or flavorful aged cheeses.

AWARDS

Not entered in competitions

VINTAGE DETAILS

2021 will be remembered by many as the vintage of the "heat dome", though it was also marked by significant wildfire smoke in the western Yakima Valley. The growing season started off warm and dry, with bud break and bloom both a little bit on the early side. For five days at the end of June, though, the state saw triple-digit temperatures that shattered all records. This happened during the early phase of fruit growth and would lead to very low crop levels or uneven ripening in many varieties. It also had some flavor impacts on some varieties: you may notice differences from other vintages, particularly in the LEM and Tempranillo. More significantly for Eleven, though, was the smoke from the Schneider Springs fire on the east flank of Mt. Rainier that blew down into the Yakima valley on a daily basis from the middle of August through the middle of September. This was the largest wildfire in the state in a big wildfire season, with over 100,000 acres burned. Since we get more than half of our fruit from the very western end of the Yakima Valley, this was hugely stressful for us. Ultimately, the only varieties significantly affected were the Petit Verdot and Mourvedre, which we had to leave behind in the vineyard because they tasted very smoky. Some other varieties we had concerns about, but the wines turned out great across the board.

GRAPE VARIETY INFO

This is a unique blend of the bright Lemberger grape and the deep-thinking Malbec. An introverted extrovert.

FUN FACTS

The first vintage of Lemma happened because of a freeze that knocked out our usual source of Malbec. We filled in with Malbec and Lemberger from Kiona, and ended up fermenting some of each together because of fermentor size/space constraints.



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