



2011 Chester-Kidder Red Wine
Columbia Valley
Gilles Nicault, Winemaker

Tasting Notes: Deep crimson colored with gorgeous aromas of blackberry, mocha and sweet herbs. Across the palate, the intensity and complexity of flavors build, ranging from ripe plum and rich black cherry to pleasant notes of graphite. This is a wine with excellent structure, creamy texture and delicate finesse from beginning to end.

Vintage: Though 2011 was a challenging vintage due to cooler than average conditions throughout the growing season, the Columbia Valley fared much better than other west coast growing regions. Credit carefully cropped canopies and a warm September that allowed grapes to reach physiological maturity and finish ripening perfectly. Cool fall evenings offset the warm days to preserve the fruits' acidity and ripen tannins. The resulting wines have firm structure and backbone suggesting they will be good candidates for the cellar. At the same time, the growing season produced ripe, vibrant grapes that made fresh, approachable wines offering plenty of youthful enjoyment as well. This is a vintage that should not be overlooked.

Winemaking: Like previous vintages of Chester-Kidder, a portion of select Cabernet Sauvignon lots underwent an extended maceration of up to 40 days to yield tannins that became supple and refined with 30 months of barrel aging. The extra time in barrel helps integrate the fruit, and a selection of tight-grained French oak barrels adds an additional layer of complexity to the wine marked by an appealing earthiness and a hint of graphite.

Vineyards: Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah for the 2011 Chester-Kidder were grown on Candy Mountain, an area of the Columbia Valley adjacent to Red Mountain and one of the warmest sections of the state. Cabernet Sauvignon ripens beautifully here and brings texture, backbone and richness to the wine. The Syrah has rich, dark color and gives the wine its savory spiciness. Petit Verdot from Dionysus Vineyard offsets the big, dark character of the Cabernet and Syrah with a refined texture and adds to the wine's vibrant charm and lively mouth feel.

Alcohol: 15.1%

pH: 3.74

TA: 0.59 grams/100ml

Blend: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon

28% Syrah

7% Petit Verdot

Release date: September 2014

Production: 1,403 cases