

## **2010 Pirouette**Columbia Valley, Red Wine Agustin Huneeus, Sr. & Philippe Melka

Philippe Melka and Agustin Huneeus, Sr. teamed to combine the traditions of old world winemaking, the advancements of new world technology, and small lots from Washington State's finest vineyards to craft this enticing red blend.

**Tasting Notes:** Deep and inky, the 2010 Pirouette offers a well integrated concentration of flavors and silky tannins. Black cherry, dark chocolate, graphite, sweet plum and black licorice aromas and flavors deliver layers of complexity, while the wine's lush mouth feel provides a rich mid-palate and pleasant crème brulee finish.

**Vintage:** The 2010 growing season was cooler than recent preceding vintages, resulting in comparisons to 1999, a vintage remembered for the excellent color, flavor and varietal character of its wines. In 2010, a cool spring delayed flowering and reduced fruit set, then temperatures remained moderate throughout the summer. As a result, we worked with growers to drop grape clusters and open up the canopies early in the season so that when the warm weather finally arrived in late September, the vines were well-positioned to finish off ripening and yield beautifully concentrated fruit.

**Winemaking:** As with previous vintages, Philippe used a variety of fermentation techniques to enhance each component of this vibrant and well-balanced blend. Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented in 400L French oak barrels, then gently rolled to impart structure and richness, without bitterness. The remaining grapes were fermented in traditional stainless steel tanks, with a few lots receiving extended time on the skins to enhance the wine's dark color and rich mid-palate. The wine was aged 22 months in all French oak barrels, 75% new.

**Vineyards**: Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon gives Pirouette its backbone and structure; Sagemoor Vineyard Cabernet, planted in the heart of the Columbia Valley in 1972, adds a sophisticated hint of minerality. From the Pasco area, Dionysus Vineyard Merlot contributes dark fruit character. Petit Verdot, also from Dionysus, adds vibrancy and floral nuances.

Blend: 59% Cabernet Sauvignon

31% Merlot 10% Petit Verdot **Alcohol:** 14.9% **pH:** 3.66

TA: 0.58 **Production:** 646 cases

Release Date: Summer 2013