

2010 Washington State Cabernet - Merlot

Kiona Vineyard's Washington State Cabernet-Merlot has garnered a reputation as the little wine that could, and is often compared to other wines costing twice as much.

Whereas a lot of wineries in this price category are content with cutting costs for the sake of filling a niche in the market, we make this wine with purpose. This wine is our outstretched hand, our résumé, our introduction. We want people to enjoy our affordable wines so they'll be more inclined to enjoy our other wines as well. It's important that this wine be *fantastic*, instead of just good.

So that's why you'll notice that the composition for the 2010 vintage is 100% Red Mountain, a decision that may not make much sense from our accountant's perspective, but we think is essential in building a rapport with the people who enjoy our wines.

The goal with blending our Washington State Cabernet - Merlot is to build a well balanced, fruit forward easy drinker, but with the structure and complexity uncommon in its peer group. Red Mountain fruit produces deep, opulent, structured wines, and this is no exception.

We did a small amount of vertical blending here to add character. 3% of this wine, for example, is 2004 Estate Red Mountain Cabernet. This technique allows us to add nuance and smooths that rich Red Mountain profile. Merlot was used sparingly in the 2010 vintage, as we did not feel that it fit in particularly well in larger amounts.

While I am admittedly biased, I believe this wine punches in well above its price category. Our Cabernet - Merlot has been a staple since we started making it in the mid 1990's. A lot of people have described it as "reliable," which may at first sound a little boring, but is actually a great descriptor of its pedigree over the last two decades.

- JJ Williams

Kiona

VINEYARDS

CABERNET - MERLOT

WASHINGTON STATE

ALC. BY VOL. 13.5%

Appellation

Washington State

Vineyard Sources

55% Heart of the Hill - Red Mountain WA

26% Ranch at the End of the Road - Red Mountain, WA

13% Emory - Red Mountain, WA

6% Kiona Estate - Red Mountain, WA

Varietal Composition

33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Sangiovese,

21% Carmenère, 13% Syrah, 3% Merlot,

2% Mourvèdre, 2% Petit Verdot

Barrel Treatment

15 Months, 80/20 French / American, 40% Neutral

Case Production

3,317 cases, 12 x 750 mL, bottled August 2012

Technical Data

Ph - 3.84

TA - 0.646

Alcohol - 13.7%