

PIROUETTE

2017 PIROUETTE, RED WINE COLUMBIA VALLEY PHILIPPE MELKA & AGUSTIN HUNEEUS, SR.

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:

The 2017 Pirouette has an expressive nose with a firm core of dark fruit and mocha flavors, displaying a layered concentration of black cherry and well-integrated oak spices. Vibrant and full-bodied across the mid-palate, this is a texturally pleasing wine with a broad and lengthy finish.

VINTAGE:

A cool, wet spring delayed budbreak by a few weeks, but temperatures warmed nicely for bloom. Conditions moderated in early summer before warming again in July to drive total heat accumulation a bit above average for the season. Harvest began toward the end of August, then temperatures cooled considerably in mid-September to extend hang time and allow the grapes to reach full physiological maturity without spiking sugars. The resulting wines are rich and expressive, displaying excellent acidity and structure that is reflective of the quality of the vintage.

BLEND:

58% Cabernet Sauvignon
20% Merlot
13% Malbec
9% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.86
TA: 0.59 grams/100ml
Production: 2,410 cases

WINEMAKING:

As with previous vintages, hand-harvested grapes underwent a variety of fermentation techniques to build layers of complexity and richness in the final blend. Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented in 400L French oak barrels that were gently rolled throughout fermentation to integrate the oak and dark fruit flavors while developing rich, supple tannins. All other varieties were fermented in traditional stainless steel tanks, with select lots enjoying longer skin contact to enhance the wine's dark color and mid-palate. The finished wine was aged 22 months in French oak barrels (85% new) before bottling, unfiltered and unfined.

VINEYARDS:

Cabernet Sauvignon, primarily sourced from a collection of Red Mountain's best vineyards, gives Pirouette the structure and textured richness that has come to characterize this acclaimed growing region. A small percentage of old vine Cabernet from Sagemoor Vineyard, planted in 1972, adds complexity. Merlot brings juicy richness to the finished wine. Malbec from Sonnet Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills adds spice. Finally, Dionysus Vineyard's Petit Verdot enhances the wine's color and contributes to the wine's layers of intense aromas and flavors.

