



2013 Chester-Kidder Red Wine
Columbia Valley
Gilles Nicault, Winemaker

Tasting Notes: The 2013 Chester-Kidder is a deep, opaque wine offering generous black fruit aromas and flavors with hints of dried herbs and graphite. Smooth on entry, with polished tannins and layers of ripe fig, dark cherry and sweet spice across the palate. This is a wine of great intensity and balance.

Vintage: An early bud break followed by dry, warm weather throughout spring marked the start of the 2013 vintage before rainfall moved across the Columbia Valley in mid-June. The precipitation allowed the vines to establish a substantial canopy that proved useful when summer temperatures climbed. With a protective exterior canopy, growers were able to open up the interior canopy to allow uniform ripening in the fruit zones so that when temperatures cooled in the fall, grapes enjoyed extended hang time that allowed flavors to fully mature.

Winemaking: Select, handpicked Cabernet Sauvignon lots underwent an extended maceration of up to 40 days to yield tannins that stand up to 30 months of barrel aging, becoming supple and refined over the last 10 months in barrels. The extra time in barrel helps integrate the fruit and enhances the mid-palate, and the selection of tight-grained all French oak barrels (85% new) adds an appealing earthiness and a hint of graphite that enhances the wine's layered complexity.

Vineyards: Roughly half the grapes used in the 2013 Chester-Kidder were grown at StoneTree and Weinbau Vineyards, two exceptional Wahluke Slope sites that bring refined tannins and layers of fruit and fresh fig flavors to the finished wine. Another one-third of the grapes were grown at Candy Mountain Vineyard, a warm site adjacent to Red Mountain that gives this wine its dark fruit flavors and beautiful intensity. Walla Walla Valley's Summit View Vineyard rounds out the remainder of the blend, contributing to the wine's smooth, rich texture.

Alcohol: 15.2%

pH: 3.93

TA: 0.62 grams/100ml

Blend: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon

34% Syrah

5% Petit Verdot

3% Cabernet Franc

Production: 1,353 cases