



AIRFIELD

ESTATES

2020 RED WINE



Marcus Miller, Winemaker
Travis Maple, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

14.2% Alcohol
3.70 pH
6.0 g/L TA
730 Cases
Bottled 2/15/22

*Produced in a Vegan Manner
(No animal byproducts used
in production of this wine)*

Airfield Estates is a fourth generation family farm based in the Yakima Valley cultivating a wide range of premium grapes and crafting estate grown wines of exceptional quality. As the name suggests, Airfield Estates has ties to aviation. A portion of the family property operated as a training base for hundreds of Army Air Corps pilots during World War II. The pride, passion, and dedication of these heroes provide a great source of inspiration as we strive to pay tribute to them with our wines.

VINEYARD

Established in 1968, our estate vineyard was one of the first commercial vineyards in Washington State. Our first plantings were Riesling, Gewürztraminer, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Over the years, we have expanded to over 20 varieties spanning approximately 830 acres. Nestled on the foothills of the Rattlesnake Mountains in the heart of the Yakima Valley AVA, our vineyard has one of the most spectacular views of Mount Rainier and Mount Adams. These sunny slopes are blessed with a long growing period, extended summer daylight, and cool evenings that yield well-balanced, world-class wines.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage will be recorded as one the warmest in Washington State history. With a mild winter and a warm spring, we saw bud break during the second week of April, about 1-2 weeks earlier than average. Then in late June, we experienced a heat wave for approximately 6 weeks. During this time, we saw over 35 days of 100+ degree temperatures, with some daily highs nearing 118 degrees! This period of extreme heat began when the grapes were in a cluster and berry size development stage, causing grapes to stress out weeks before we vintners would prefer. Smaller berry size led to an overall 30% reduction in crop sizes for us. Nevertheless, the flavors that these smaller berries produced were phenomenal! By the end of August, we had brought in nearly 150 tons of wine grapes, hands down an August record for us at Airfield. October started off with nice warm temperatures and the pace of grape harvesting was going very well with ideal ripeness and exceptional quality. By the third week of October, we saw several freezing events causing our canopies to die. In the end, the 2021 vintage made outstanding wine. Our white wines showcase bright fruit aromas with brisk acidity. Our red wines display dark fruit elements with structure and finesse. The wines created from 2021 will be age worthy and enjoyable in their youth and will be wines that will make a lasting impression.

WINEMAKING

Sourced from our Estate Vineyard located in the Yakima Valley AVA, each Varietal of this Red Blend was harvested at various times from mid to late October at Optimal Maturity and sent to various size stainless steel fermenters. The extraction approach was different for each varietal with the overall goal being to create a wine that is expressive of its varietal characteristics. After each varietal was finished with fermentation, the wines were sent to various French oak coopers and inoculated for Malo-Lactic fermentation. During this time, each barrel had its lees stirred twice a month for 3 months. This process gives the wine a rounder mouthfeel while naturally softening the wine. After 10 months of aging, the final blend was constructed and aged together as a final blend for an additional eight months. Aged in 100% French Oak for 16 months with 25% being New French Oak, 25% 2yr old French Oak and 50% Neutral French Oak. The goal of this blend is to have each varietal play an important part in the wine, creating complex flavors that constantly evolve with balanced oak notes and a velvet like mouthfeel.

TASTING NOTES

The 2020 Red Wine, a delightful and easy drinking Bordeaux Blend displays dark fruit aromas of blackberry, Black currants, blueberry compote with interwoven notes of cola and dark chocolate. The palate shows the wines subtle tannins that are balanced with secondary flavors of smoked dates, Bing Cherry, and sweet espresso. The wine has a long-lasting finish with savory toasted oak notes that lingers on the palate. Enjoy now through 2030 with Optimal Maturity in 2026.

