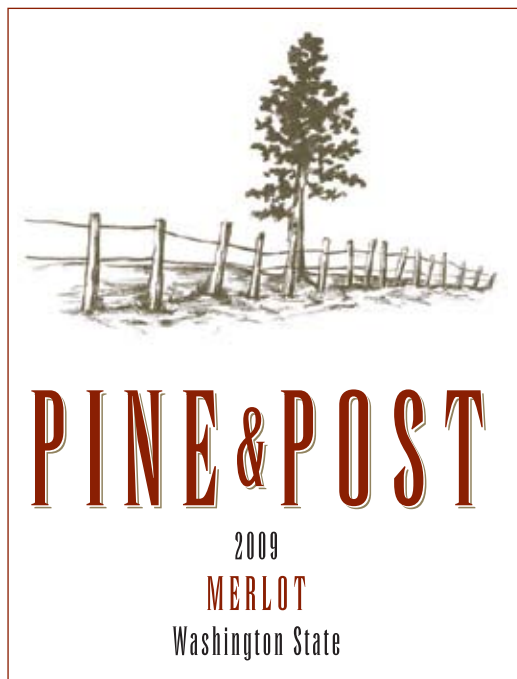


2009 Merlot

Washington State



Washington State

Washington's success with vinifera is due in large measure to the state's unique geography. The vineyards are planted on the east side of the Cascade Mountains, which serve to protect the region from marine weather off the Pacific coast and limit rainfall to just 6 - 8 inches annually. Low rainfall and free-draining soils allow vineyard managers to control vine vigor in order to promote flavor development in the grapes. Warm daytime temperatures ripen fruit to perfection. Cool autumn nights protect the grapes' natural acidity.

Vintage Notes

Bud break was a bit later than normal for the 2009 vintage. However, due to a long, hot summer, the grapes had plenty of hang time and experienced an accelerated growth. Harvest began early and was completed quicker than normal. The shorter harvest was a blessing as most vineyards were not effected by the October 10th frost because picking was already complete. The 2009 wines promise great color, balanced acidity and well developed fruit flavors.

Tasting Note

Sweet cherry and oak aromas marry with spice box, tar and eucalyptus notes. The palate continues with sweet cherry followed by developed big fruit flavors. This medium bodied Merlot has a supportive tannin structure that leads to lingering fruit and oak notes on the finish.

Variety Blend

79% Merlot, 9% Sangiovese, 5% Syrah,
4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Lemberger

Bottling

pH: 3.7 TA: 0.54 Alc: 13.50%

Cases Produced

21,516

