

SPOKEN BARREL

Proudly Made in Washington

VINEYARD SOURCING

Wahluke Slope

The Wahluke Slope, located on the eastern side of the Cascades mountain range, is a fold of hills that run directly east to west. Here, vineyards face due south, warm up early in the spring, and enjoy an abundance of hot summer days and cool nights during the growing season. The wall of the Cascades cuts off the moist ocean breezes that would otherwise encourage excess vine growth, making the Wahluke Slope the ideal place for growing richly flavored red wine grapes—Cabernet, Merlot, Malbec, and Syrah. Wahluke Slope reds are distinguished by their combination of good acidity from the cool nights, and high tannin levels from the sunny days. These big, bold wines need plenty of time to age in barrel and in bottle, so they can soften and develop properly.

Horse Heaven Hills

Aptly named for the rolling natural grassland that fed wild mustangs and antelope, the Horse Heaven Hills provide a southerly aspect beneficent to vine growth. Most of our vineyards are located high in the hills, away from the Columbia River and watered by a natural warm artesian well that connects to the Cascades. Here, fruit ripens a little later in the fall, but the grapes benefit from the extra “hang time” that comes with the higher elevation. Horse Heaven Hills red wines are chewy and round in texture, with complex flavors. Syrah is very good here and the Bordeaux red varieties—from Cabernet Sauvignon to Petit Verdot—are absolutely dynamite.

