



GOOSE RIDGE

ESTATE WINERY

2006 ESTATE MERLOT GOOSE RIDGE ESTATE VINEYARD COLUMBIA VALLEY

GOOSE RIDGE ESTATE VINEYARDS AND WINERY is a family-owned and operated winery dedicated to limited production, handcrafted wines from select, estate-grown grapes. The Monson family's vineyard is planted on a south-facing slope in Washington's Columbia Valley adjacent to Red Mountain that consistently yields rich, ripe grapes. The family has farmed in the Columbia Valley for four decades and is known for their commitment to quality. Goose Ridge Vineyard is built on that tradition.

WINEMAKER

Acclaimed winemaker Charlie Hoppes has his pick of the vineyard. Fermenting and aging wines in small lots from a handful of blocks carefully selected for their exceptional character and complexity is exactly what the Monsons had in mind for Goose Ridge when they founded the winery in 1999.

VINEYARD

When the family decided to plant grapes on a sun-drenched hill adjacent to Red Mountain, they did so under the guidance of Dr. Walter Clore, considered by many the "father" of the Washington wine industry. Dr. Clore was impressed by the site's gentle, south-facing slope and the growing area's warm temperatures. He encouraged the Monsons to plant vineyard rows north-to-south to maximize sun exposure, and he also advised the family to plant the site in small blocks to facilitate estate-grown wines managed for low yields through careful pruning and thinning practices. As a result of the vineyard's attention to detail, grapes ripen evenly and the wines are consistently ripe, rich and fruit-forward.

VINTAGE

In the 2006 vintage the weather was nearly ideal. A mild but rainy spring helped produce tight bunches of small berries on the vines, adding to the potential for well-structured, deeply flavored wines. Summer fell into a consistent pattern of dry weather, hot days and cool nights, and just when growers in the state's warm regions worried about sugar levels soaring while the flavors lagged, cool and slightly damp conditions arrived in September.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"This is a lush and supple Merlot with notes of violet and black current. Dark plum-like flavors combine with black cherry, blackberry and a touch of caramel. Aged in 62% French and 38% American Oak barrels, this wine is wonderfully balanced and has a long finish."

Charlie Hoppes
Consulting Winemaker

APPELLATION: Columbia Valley

BLEND: 100% Goose Ridge Estate Merlot

TOTAL ACIDITY: .54

pH: 3.65

ALCOHOL: 14.8%



For more information about Goose Ridge wines visit www.vintagepoint.com/gooseridge