

ABEJA



2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VARIETAL COMPOSITION: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot,
2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

VINEYARD SOURCES: Heather Hill; Sagemoor: Bacchus, Dionysus &
Weinbau; Hedges Estate Vineyard

HARVEST DATES: October 3, 2008 – October 25, 2008

APPELLATION: Columbia Valley

OAK COMPOSITION: 100% French, medium toast; 60% new, 40% one & two-year-old

BARREL AGING: 25 months

CHEMISTRY: Alc. 14.9%, pH 3.81, TA .54 g/100ml

BOTTLING DATE: December 16, 2010

In 2008, a cool, wet spring that gave way to ample warmth, and an extended fall allowed for excellent flavor development that resulted in a vintage defined by lush, forward approachability, carried within a nice framework of structure. The 2008 vintage of Cabernet is a delicious wine that reflects the classic, elegantly powerful Abeja style.

What I really like is how this wine combines the bright red and blue fruit and lingering mouth feel of Washington State Cabernet Sauvignon with the nice, old-world Bordeaux characters of saddle leather, cedar, and tar. The nose is fruitful and forward upon opening the bottle. Dense, dark, fruit characters – plums, boysenberries, and blackberries – are woven with a slight suggestion of soy. The mouth is rich and finishes with fine-grained, polished tannins. The 2008 Columbia Valley is also the first Cabernet Sauvignon we have released with a bit of Petit Verdot in the blend, which really drives the fruit and structure in the wine.

I am a fan of one-pot meals, and during harvest I usually make a special one for our crew. The 2008 Cabernet is a perfect match for a one-pot of pulled pork and fresh steamer clams in a spiced red sauce with rice.

I have been digging back into my album, CD, and – yes – even my cassette collection, which led me to explore U2 online. This is where I discovered the 25th anniversary release of the album *Unforgettable Fire*. It includes remixes of sixteen U2 classics. *Pride* and *Fourth of July* are both songs with grit and balance, like this wine, which combines new world fruit with an old world minerality.

John Abbott—Winemaker