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2006 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

VINTAGE

The 2006 growing season was quite warm with overall heat accumulation rivaling the high numbers posted in 2003. While spring was a little rainier than usual, July and August were hot prompting concern the grapes might ripen before the flavors had time to fully develop, but a perfect Indian summer slowed ripening just enough to give the grapes extra time on the vine to soften the tannins and produce mature, richly flavored grapes.

VINEYARDS

One of the advantages of having made wine in the Columbia Valley since the mid-1980s is the opportunity it's given me to work with some of the most dedicated growers in the industry. During all that time, Champoux Vineyard has stood at the top of the list of outstanding vineyards in Washington State. Located in the Horse Heavens, this vineyard consistently produces wines with exceptional depth, complexity, and elegance.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins for eight days. After being pressed off, this lot was aged for 20 months in primarily new French Oak barrels to improve its already lengthy finish. Racking the wine every three months created pliant tannins and a bold, stylish structure.

TASTING NOTES

Made from what is arguably Washington State's best vineyard for the variety, the Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is a sleek and powerful wine. Rich and concentrated, the nose is loaded with cassis and black cherry, while the palate is brimming with supple tannins and tremendous length.

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker

ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity …….0.57g/100ml

pH……...……3.74

Blend… ….96% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Merlot

Cases…….....415

Bottling Date……..... June 18, 2008