

2020

NIGHTSHADE NEBBIOLO

Warm your heart with robust, spicy Nebbiolo from Tom's side project, Nightshade.

BOX SCORE			
VARIETY	NEBBIOLO 100%	ALC	14%
APPELLATION	RED MOUNTAIN AVA	PH	3.66
VINEYARD	CIEL DU CHEVAL VINEYARD	PRODUCTION	48 CASES
AGEING	18 MONTHS NEUTRAL AUSTRIAN 300L OAK BARRELS		
SOIL SERIES	SANDY LOAM, CALCIUM CARBONATE		



VINTAGE RECAP

The 2020 vintage created some unique challenges for the entire West Coast, most notably the wildfires that plagued Oregon and California. Thankfully, Ciel du Cheval and the Columbia Valley & the small sub-appellation of Red Mountain were spared from the fires and experienced mostly only high-level haze. However, poor yields, like in Oregon, were the norm in the Columbia Valley from a poor fruit set during the flowering in June. The resultant small fruit crop had extremely high quality, but we, unfortunately, were 25% off of average yields, so Tom ended up with two barrels instead of the usual three.

WINEMAKING + FERMENTATION

Making Nebbiolo is quite different from the traditional Burgundian and Beaujolais approaches we utilize for most of the Division & Division-Villages wines. Tom traveled to Piedmont in 2017 to learn more about how Barolo and Barbaresco wines are made and adapted some of the approaches he learned there to his goals of making a Nebbiolo slightly more akin to the wines of Alto Piemonte - meaning a little lighter and fresher.

After picking the grapes and destemming them completely, Tom submerges the cap for about 10 days to extract color and phenolic flavors, which are notoriously difficult with Nebbiolo's thin skins, as well as to moderate Nebbiolo's famously firm tannins. He also bleeds off (known as a saignée) to further intensify the juice. After the fermentation naturally begins, the cap submersion is removed and daily pumpovers are performed until the alcoholic fermentation is completed. At this stage, the new wine is put under cap submersion again for about 30 days before pressing and barrel down in neutral 300L Austrian oak barrels for about 18 months of ageing.

TASTING NOTES

The 2020 wine has a delicious approachability out of the gate that wasn't there in the previous vintages. This is likely due to the slightly lower acidity in 2020 which might be due to the high-level haze that kept temps warmer in the evening and hence lowered acidity. The wine delivers pure Nebbiolo anise and black cherry characters and is really dense in mineral tones. This is one of the best vintages yet and will be a major crowd-pleaser for any Nebbiolo lover. Drink now or cellar for 5-10 years.