

## 2012 Washington State Cabernet - Merlot

Kiona Vineyard's Washington State Cabernet-Merlot has garnered a reputation as the little wine that could, and is often compared to other wines costing twice as much.

Whereas a lot of wineries in this price category are content with cutting costs for the sake of filling a niche in the market, we make this wine with purpose. This wine is our outstretched hand, our résumé, our introduction. We want people to enjoy our affordable wines so they'll be more inclined to enjoy our other wines as well. It's important that this wine be *fantastic*, instead of just good.

So that's why you'll notice that the composition for the 2012 vintage is 48% Red Mountain, a decision that may not make much sense from our accountant's perspective, but we think is essential in building a rapport with the people who enjoy our wines.

The goal with blending our Washington State Cabernet - Merlot is to build a well balanced, food friendly, fruit forward wine but with the structure and complexity uncommon in its peer group. Red Mountain fruit produces deep, opulent, structured wines, and this is no exception.

We like to use fruit from several of our sites in and around Red Mountain for our Cabernet - Merlot. We own and farm both the Nine Canyon and Vista vineyards, about 30 minutes away from the winery. As much cooler sites, the grapes there have tremendous varietal characteristic and strong fruit profiles. Blended with the more robust Red Mountain fruit, the resulting wine exhibits both finesse and power.

While I am admittedly biased, I believe this wine punches in well above its price category. Our Cabernet - Merlot has been a staple since we started making it in the mid 1990's. A lot of people have described it as "reliable," which may at first sound a little boring, but is actually a great descriptor of its pedigree over the last two decades.

- JJ Williams

# Kiona

VINEYARDS

CABERNET - MERLOT

WASHINGTON STATE

ALC. BY VOL. 13.5%

### Appellation

Washington State

### Vineyard Sources

35% Nine Canyon - Columbia Valley, WA  
17% Vista - Columbia Valley, WA  
17% Heart of the Hill - Red Mountain, WA  
17% Emory - Red Mountain, WA  
10% Ranch at the End of the Road - Red Mountain, WA  
4% Kiona Estate, Red Mountain, WA

### Varietal Composition

50% Cabernet Sauvignon  
15% Merlot  
13% Syrah  
9% Carmenère  
8% Sangiovese  
2% Malbec  
2% Cabernet Franc  
1% Petit Verdot

### Barrel Treatment

14 Months, 80 French / 20 American, 40% Neutral

### Technical Data

pH - 3.79 | TA - 0.645 | Alcohol - 13.7%