

2016 Two Blondes Vineyard Red Wine

**ANDREW
WILL**

This has a higher percentage of Merlot than typical in this blend because it was a great vintage for this varietal. When we create this blend, we do not have a set formula, we are looking for the wine that best shows off the vineyard for that vintage. Merlot is an early ripening grape and when the conditions and timing are right, you can get ample phenolic ripeness while maintaining freshness and elegance. Even though this was a warm vintage, Two Blondes is a cooler site, and this blend shows off this terroir in comparison to our other blends from warmer sites.

The 2016 Vintage in Washington State started out quick during the spring, but in early June the weather returned to normal and thus led to a start date of September 12th for picking. Harvest continued until October 25th with Cabernet Sauvignon from Two Blondes vineyard coming in. Right away we saw the high potential of the fruit and how this vintage would end up being another great vintage for us.

Reviews:

(95 Points)...This full-bodied, incredibly elegant red offers a great perfume of leafy herbs, tobacco, dark earth, and cassis. It shows remarkable purity and elegance (the hallmark of the vintage), a terrific mid-palate, and a great finish. This is a sensational Yakima Valley Bordeaux blend that needs 3-5 years of bottle age and will evolve for two decades. – Jeb Dunnuck (Jebdunnuck.com)

(93 Points)...mainly red-fruited with a core of softer expressions, more delicate than the other red bottlings in the range. The florals and spices are elevated here with velvety, ripe red fruits on the medium to full-bodied palate, with a fresh, tart line that runs through the center and on to the finish. The wine has a long, delicate finish that wears its finesse seductively and pleasingly. Yum! – Anthony Muller (Wine Advocate)

Composition: 60% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec

Alcohol: 14%

Vinification: Indigenous yeasts, no filtering, no fining, minimal SO₂, fermentation in stainless steel tanks using a Pulseair for cap management

Vineyard: Two Blondes (~30 acres total, sustainable farming, handpicked fruit, Vineyard Manager = Chris Hoon)

AVA: Yakima Valley, Washington State, USA

Average Age of Vines: 16 Years

Time in barrels: 18 months (25% New French Oak, 75% Neutral French Oak)

Bottling Date: May 2018

Release Date: February 2021

Total Production: 582 Cases

