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2006 Klipsun Vineyard Merlot

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

Among the great vineyards of Washington State, Klipsun ranks right at the top. *Wine & Spirits Magazine* recently named it one of the 25 greatest vineyards in the world. Located in the Red Mountain appellation, it produces wines with great power, depth, and concentration. The wines from this vineyard tend to be very long-lived.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented in small lots for an average time of eight days. After being pressed off, each lot of wine was moved to predominately new French oak barrels for 18 months of barrel aging during which time the wine was raked every 3-4 months.

TASTING NOTES

This well-structured, medium-bodied Merlot shows lots of raspberry, vanilla and spice notes in the nose that complement rich black fruit and cocoa flavors in the mouth. Generous in texture and length, it should continue to improve with age for the next 8-12 years.



ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity	0.55g/100ml
pH.....	3.60
Blend... ..	96% Merlot 4% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases.....	298
Bottling Date.....	July 2, 2008

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker