



**Washington State
HUCKLEBERRY
d' LATAH**

*Creating
fine wines
from
Washington
State*



**EARLY START — THEN THE
WAIT**

Smiles of relief can be found on all our faces — harvest is over. A cool, wet spring and late bud-break fooled us into believing that we were going to have a later-than-normal harvest, so we spent much of August playing and enjoying our new granddaughter. But then all of a sudden havoc throughout the state. The very warm summer caused early ripening varieties to progress so rapidly that some needed picking before September came; the earliest I'd ever seen in Washington State. A cool spell in mid-September though, slowed things to a halt. We didn't see a single grape come into the winery for nearly two weeks during the middle of the month. The problem was not the sugar level in the grapes (one of the picking criteria we measure), it was the extremely high acid levels resulting from the cool temperatures. Fortunately the weather held, allowing for the extra hang time needed to get those later ripening grapes into balance. Although a late-October freeze spoiled attempts for some to get absolutely "perfect" numbers, we felt lucky that we were already done. Summing up this vintage: "Mother Nature smiled on Washington State once again this year and provided a near ideal climate for grapes. She provided us with a fast start, a slow middle and a long finish to produce a vintage to remember. The grapes got as ripe as wanted and the color was intense and dark for the reds. The wines are going to be really good."



TASTING NOTES

This year was a hard year for Huckleberries. Bears needed the food, and so many were left without their precious fruit. We are forever thankful that we were still able to receive our supply to make Spokane's most popular wine. Huckleberries are a small, blueberry-like fruit. Despite efforts to cultivate and commercially grow this delectable treat, the only source for the Huckleberry continues to be from the wild in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. Those brave enough to compete with bears and other animals indigenous to the area are rewarded with a dark-blue berry that is uniquely Northwest. Typically used for jams, jellies and pies, we have found that the blending together of the berry's tart juice and our Riesling to be a real taste sensation. The subtle blueberry-like flavors of the Huckleberry add nice complexities to the wonderfully intense spice and floral characters of our Riesling.

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WINE MAKING NOTES

First Bottling: March 13, 2008

