



AIRFIELD

E S T A T E S

2020 BOMBSHELL



Marcus Miller, Winemaker
Travis Maple, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

14.2% Alcohol
3.88 pH
5.7 g/L TA
1,943 cases produced
Bottled 3/01/22

*Produced in a Vegan Manner
(No animal byproducts used
in production of this wine)*

Airfield Estates is a fourth generation family farm based in the Yakima Valley cultivating a wide range of premium grapes and crafting estate grown wines of exceptional quality. As the name suggests, Airfield Estates has ties to aviation. A portion of the family property operated as a training base for hundreds of Army Air Corps pilots during World War II. The pride, passion, and dedication of these heroes provide a great source of inspiration as we strive to pay tribute to them with our wines.

VINEYARD

Our estate vineyard was established in 1968 and is situated along the foothills of the Rattlesnake Mountains in the heart of the Yakima Valley AVA. Today, we grow over 20 wine grape varieties spanning over 800 acres. Our vineyard has spectacular views of Mount Rainier and Mount Adams. These sunny slopes are blessed with a long growing period, extended summer daylight, and cool evenings that yield well-balanced, world-class wines.

VINTAGE

The 2020 vintage will go down as a very memorable year. The growing season was exceptional with a mild winter, warm spring, and moderate summer. Bud break occurred 2 weeks earlier than normal and veraison was well ahead of schedule too. Just as we were preparing for an early start to harvest, wildfires in the Northwest created a thick cloud of smoke over Washington State. Concerns arose about exposure to smoke. Taking a cautious approach, we delayed harvest until the smoke cleared and conducted trials to determine the effect of smoke on our grapes. Fortunately, results showed no sign of smoke taint. Proximity to the source of smoke plays a big factor, and our vineyard was a long distance away. Overall, we have not seen any impact of smoke on the 2020 vintage. Another major event of this vintage was an early frost that occurred the second week of October. Our winemaking team worked tirelessly long hours leading up to the frost. By the time our vineyards had been impacted by the cold spell, our winery was stuffed with fermenting grapes and harvest was 95% complete. All remaining grapes were then hand-harvested and sorted with an optical sorter to remove any excessive M.O.G. or bad grapes. After our wines completed alcoholic fermentation, we were very pleased with the results. We at Airfield have another stunning vintage for you to enjoy. The 2020 wines showcase an abundance of ripe fruit aromatics, low tannin profiles, and exceptionally balanced finishes.

WINEMAKING

The 2020 Bombshell is comprised of 46% Merlot, 25% Syrah, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 8% Malbec. All of the varieties for this blend were sourced from our estate vineyard in the Yakima Valley. Our goal when creating this wine was to see a bounty of fruit flavors and aromas, a nice touch of well-integrated oak, and soft tannins to create a well-balanced wine. Harvested towards the end of October at optimal maturity, the grapes were sent to various size fermenters, the grapes were then cold soaked for 48 before being inoculated with several different strains of yeast. Our extraction approach was to be aggressive at the beginning of fermentation, which allowed us to extract the color and flavors we look for in each of these varieties. Once alcohol levels start to increase, we then took a more gentle approach to avoid harsh tannins and achieve our end goal of a soft, lush finish while maintaining balance and structure. After fermentation, each lot was then sent to a variety of new and neutral French oak barrels and inoculated for malolactic fermentation. After malolactic fermentation is completed, each barrel had its lees stirred twice a month for up to four months, this process helps build structure and roundness while enhancing the mouthfeel and acting as a fining agent to naturally soften the wine. The final blend consisted of aging in 100% French oak for 16 months, with 15% being new French oak, 35% 1 to 3 year old French oak, and 50% neutral oak.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2020 Bombshell showcases an abundance of black currant, red cassis, and blueberry jam intertwined with intriguing layers of licorice bakers' chocolate. The palate is robust with a silky texture and secondary flavors of plums, figs, bramble berry and a hint soy sauce. The wine finishes with remarkably smooth tannins accentuating the gorgeous berry tones with a touch of spice from the French oak. Enjoy now through 2030 with optimal maturity peaking around 2027.

