

Cascade Cliffs Vineyard & Winery

Barbera Club – Winter, 2020

Why Barbera? Why not focus on and build your winery around something more familiar to the public? Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, even Zinfandel come to mind. And if you do venture down the road of chance with an unknown Italian varietal, you'd better make sure it's good. *Really good.*

Certainly, these were sentiments expressed to Bob Lorkowski, our fearless owner/winemaker, back when he took over ownership and operation of the winery in the 90's. Was he just crazy- or just crazy about Barbera? In truth, bit-a-both! But more than that, Bob was committing to "the long game" of wine production, not



expecting the instant jackpot so many companies plan on. He knew that growing and producing Italian varietals from the Piedmont region of Italy (Barbera, Dolcetto, and Nebbiolo) would take time for the public to catch onto. It would take a lot of conversations, a lot of education, and whole lot of sipping. And he knew that his peers were right when they told him "it better be really good."

Fast forward about 10 years and you can see a small but passionate following for these Cascade Cliffs wines, especially the Barbera, which seems to explode with ripe, racy flavors. It tastes like a Washington State "big red" wine yet feels distinctly Italian. It starts to win awards. BIG awards like Best of the Best in the NW. A new Barbera wine is created for the 2009 vintage called "Blood Red" and the demand climbs even higher. More and more visitors come to the winery, looking for the Barbera they've heard so much

about. Finally, to satisfy this demand and ensure access to our wine club members, the Barbera Club was created. Which brings us to you...

It was you, even way back in the early days before you heard of Cascade Cliffs, that gave Bob the courage and confidence to ride that Barbera wave. Your love of this varietal and our style of it made this possible. You listened when we introduced it and explained its nuances. You attended the tastings where we featured Barbera and poured different versions and vintages of it. And it was you who, after tasting it, leaned over to the person next to you and told them "Try the Barbera. It's *really good...*" So thank you, Barbera Club members! Your passion proved Bob right and turned his risk into a reward for all of us.

With good, risky cheer,

~All of us at Cascade Cliffs Vineyard & Winery

Tasting Notes

2018 Estate Barbera

The Facts: Our Estate Barbera will always hold a special place in our hearts, as it is the first Barbera we produced and one of the very first Barbera wines made in the Pacific NW. The style has changed over the years and our intent with this wine now is to pay tribute to the great wines of Asti and Alba in Piedmont, Italy. Bright red fruit with mouth-watering acidity make this wine a perfect complement to meals. The 2018 vintage gave us higher sugars and, therefore, a more fruit-forward wine than this has been in the past. Still, it is a classic Barbera and a beautiful homage to its Italian roots.

~**Pair this with:** Rigatoni with Joanie's Bolognese sauce.

~**Aging:** Mid-term (now to 2026).



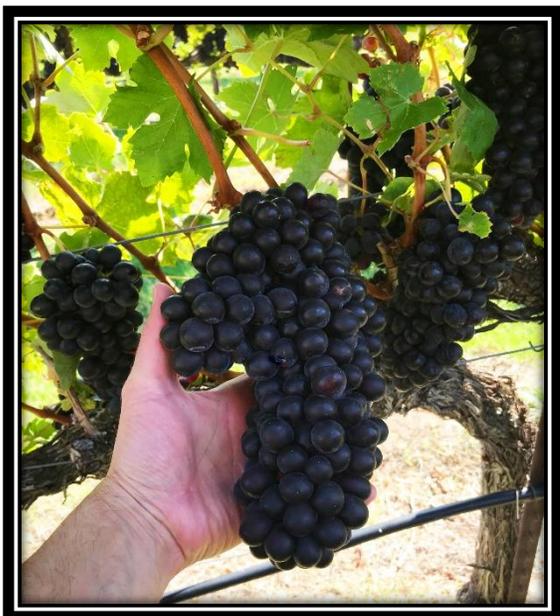
2018 CV Barbera

The Facts: Being a Barbera house means you need to have plenty of Barbera to work with. While we love our Barbera vines,

they only account for a very small production of Barbera every year. We source high-quality Barbera from several vineyards in Washington state in order to meet our demands, and this Barbera celebrates the various vineyards we used for 2018. Made from 60% Six Prong, 20% King Fuji, 10% Cascade Cliffs, and 5% Destiny Ridge, this wine has the terroir of Horse Heaven Hills, Wahluke Slope, our own property, and shows qualities of both traditional and modern styles. Vibrant, intense, and rich, it can be utilized on the dinner table or sipped alone for dreamy contemplation of faraway Italian landscapes.

~**Pair this with:** Homemade meatballs (use both pork and beef) sprinkled with fresh pecorino cheese.

~**Aging:** Mid-term (now to 2026)



2018 Blood Red Barbera

The Facts: Buckle up! The Blood Red has become an absolute superstar in the wine industry, blowing countless people away with its super-rich, ripe fruit and powerful finish. The trick here is to not be afraid – and we never are – of letting the fruit hang, giving the grapes even more natural sugar. We select particular blocks of our favorite Barbera sites (normally McKinley Springs) and designate them for the production of our atomic fruit bomb- Blood Red Barbera. This is a wine that is made to celebrate with and revel in all its sinful nature. And man, is this vintage an absolute knockout. Proceed with caution and enjoy!

~**Pair this with:** Victories, graduations, marriages and/or divorces.

~**Aging:** Mid-term (now to 2026).

Cheers!