



## 1997 Solesce Red Wine

*Solesce* (rhymes with *impress*) is a fanciful word, created to convey the idea of wine as "an essence of Sol", our sun. Each bottle is the liquid expression of that essence, of the sun's light transformed into mature grapes basking on the vine, later rendered into glorious wine. Each sip is a celebration of the sun-drenched slopes of Washington's vineyards.

This Bordeaux-style blend was crafted using carefully selected lots of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and malbec from some of Washington's greatest vineyards. Each of these grapes possesses a unique character. Yet, when blended in the right proportions, they harmonize into one essential composition as each makes its distinctive contribution to the whole.

While many of the red wines I've made over the years have been blended to one degree or another, I have been inspired for some time to make one where the individual component wines determine the ultimate cuvee, not the Federal regulations on varietal labeling. This is that wine.

Each vintage of *Solesce* will be slightly different, depending on the characteristics of the harvest. In 1997 I used the following sources:

Smith Canyon Vineyards	Merlot	46% Columbia Valley
Klipsun Vineyards	Cabernet Sauvignon	20% Red Mountain
Hedges Vineyards	Cabernet Sauvignon	11% Red Mountain
	Total Cabernet Sauvignon	= 31%
Brulotte Vineyard	Cabernet Franc	7% Yakima Valley
Fiola Vineyard	Malbec	16% Yakima Valley

### Analysis at Harvest

Average Brix	23.5
Average TA	0.51%
Average pH	3.42

### Analysis at Bottling

Residual Sugar	0.1%
TA	0.54%
pH	3.72
Alcohol	13.6%

For the label art I wanted to create a theme that combined the spirit of the sun and the history of the Northwest. Fortunately I found a talented local artist - Frank Woll - who specializes in Northwest Indian art. Together we designed this stunning label that shows our sun captured inside a cedar box, symbolizing the sun's essence trapped in a bottle.

**Brian D. Carter**

**Winemaker**