



2005 *Designée Cabernet Franc* for The Herbfarm COLUMBIA VALLEY

Three years ago, over dinner, Ron Zimmerman of The Herbfarm Restaurant asked Caleb Foster and Nina Buty Foster of Buty Winery to create for The Herbfarm a cabernet franc. Naturally, we loved Ron's invitation to make their dream Washington cab franc because our wine would become a part of their history. The process began by agreeing on wine style and vineyard selection. Conner Lee Vineyard and Champoux Vineyard were chosen for their consistent quality. Together, we designed the wine through blending trials over the next 24 months until the wine was bottled.

Ron found, "The perfection of the 2005 fruit and Caleb and Nina's artistry hit the jackpot. The proof is in the unbridled and unsolicited raves we've gotten from our dinner guests."

The 2005 vintage became a standard bearer for Washington. The great dry weather and long harvest season afforded a stunning wine. The 15 year old cabernet franc vines in Conner Lee's sandy soils and cold nights yielded natural acids. The dry hot summer heat consistently ripened the fruits. At Conner Lee we grew five pounds per plant of cabernet franc, two bottles per plant, and slightly more than Bordeaux First Growth harvest limits. All our fruits at Buty are hand harvested. The Conner Lee cabernet franc we harvested on October 18th at 24.5° brix hydrometer, 3.6 pH and 7.0 organic acids. We fermented in coopered upright Taransaud tanks, 18 days on skins. We used free run only in the wines. Traditional Bordeaux Taransaud Chateau barrels were selected to match the wine with 60% of them new. The blend with 10% Champoux Vineyard cabernet franc was finished prior to bottling on February 10, 2007.

Designée is an elegant, rich and structured wine, with bright persistence. It is a lovely partner to the varied, local and delicious foods of The Herbfarm.

We bottled 505 bottles along with six large format bottles. The wine was released September 1st, 2008 exclusively at The Herbfarm selling for \$95 per bottle.