



## CADARETTA, Columbia Valley 2008 Windthrow

It used to be that when winemakers blended two or more grapes into a wine, it was so the strengths of one could make up for the weaknesses of the others...No longer. With modern clonal vine selection, pruning, computerized fermentation and such, cabernet sauvignon, sangiovese and other grapes can make perfectly superb wines all by themselves. So when winemakers blend — and blend they still do, in spades — it's to see what wondrous new flavors they can create...In other words, they're stroking their egos. It must be fun to be a winemaker. Still, we're the beneficiaries, so who's complaining?

This is a fairly typical French Rhône Valley blend, but this one is made in the exploding new wine region in Washington State. It's 36 percent syrah, 29 percent mourvedre, 18 percent counoise and 17 percent Grenache. It has aromas and flavors of strawberries, dark chocolate, black pepper and anise, with zingy acidity.

-FRED TASKER, 1/12/12

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