

# 2012 ELLENA'S SANGIOVESE

*Wahluke Slope avc  
Michael Vineyard*

After a visit to Italy, Mike and Ellena came home in love with Chiantis. The light, everyday style of this wine appealed to them because of its easy drinking and versatile food pairing. Therefore, Mike had a mission, find Sangiovese grapes (the main grape in an Italian Chianti) grown in Washington state, and make his very own Chianti-style wine for Latah Creek. This wine quickly became not only a staff favorite and an Ellena favorite, but a customer favorite as well. This is why it was so devastating when our vines were destroyed with a deep freeze in 2010. With Natalie now on the winemaking, a search for the hard-to-come-by variety was in full swing. Upon talking with Latah Creek's Chenin Blanc grape grower, Natalie found out they had recently planted Sangiovese grapes and they were available. Immediately an agreement was written up. After years of waiting, it is exciting to have this variety back in Latah Creek's line-up.

*Winemakers notes:* Since this variety is Ellena's absolute favorite, we have designated it as Ellena's Sangiovese. It just so happens to be from Michael Vineyard, which we took as a sign that these grapes were made for us. One taste, and you can imagine yourself sitting back relaxing looking at the hillsides of the Chianti region of Italy.

As soon as this wine enters the glass, earthy aromas and nuances of oak and tart cherry fill the air. This deliciously smooth Sangiovese tastes of cherry, oak vanillin and spice, with lingering flavors of cardamom and medium dark chocolate.

Enjoy this wine with red sauces, pizza, chicken, and pork, such as *Ellena's Pork Chop Jambalaya* recipe in her cookbook.



Michael Vineyard  
Wahluke Slope AVA

**Winemakers:** Mike Conway and Natalie Conway-Barnes

**Yeast:** French Red | **Malolactic Fermentation:** 100% complete

**Oak Aging:** 12 months, a combination of new and used French and American oak

**Fining:** none

**Alcohol:** 12.5 % by volume

**Bottled/production:** July 10, 2014 | 477 cases

**Released:** August 2014

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