

JUAN MUÑOZ-OCA

Winemaker

Juan Muñoz-Oca is the winemaker for INTRINSIC, a Cabernet Sauvignon that bridges the gap between the agricultural setting where wine grapes are grown and the urban setting where wine is enjoyed. Muñoz-Oca is no stranger to Cabernet Sauvignon. In fact, in his nearly 20 year career as a winemaker he has been known to push many traditional boundaries with Cabernet Sauvignon as the head winemaker at Columbia Crest Winery in Paterson, Washington. From crafting numerous 90+ scored wines, to having an integral role in creating Washington's only No. 1 Wine in the World from Wine Spectator, to being the first winemaker to crowdsource a Cabernet from vine to bottle, that leadership is at the forefront with INTRINSIC. Through it, he has been able to explore the raw, yet elegant characteristics of Cabernet Sauvignon in Washington State and establish new, cutting edge techniques.

Raised in Mendoza, Argentina, Muñoz-Oca came under the tutelage of his grandfather, cellar master at Bodegas Toso winery, at a young age. The older man instilled in him a love and respect for wine, as well as for his family's Spanish culture, that was to become the root of a lifelong passion for winemaking. He picked his first grapes at the age of eight, later took an after-school job in a wine cellar, and spent his vacations helping his grandfather with harvest.

During his college years, Muñoz-Oca gained more wine industry experience during stints at various wineries in Argentina. After graduating with honors from Argentina's National University of Cuyo with dual degrees in agricultural engineering and winemaking, he studied viticulture in Ribera del Duero, Spain and joined the winemaking team at Terrazas de los Andes, an Argentine premium winery owned by Chandon. In 2001, Muñoz-Oca met the legendary Dr. Robert Wample, then a top viticulturalist at Washington State University. Wample convinced him to further his winemaking career in Washington.

In the summer of 2001, he began interning with the viticulture team at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, and in 2003 began working at Columbia Crest. In 2015, Muñoz-Oca found a passion-project with INTRINSIC while experimenting in the cellar with extreme extended maceration. The project marked an opportunity to not only explore the quality of tannins in Washington State Cabernet, but to also push traditional boundaries in winemaking and bring an avant-garde, "garagiste-style" wine to consumers.



Juan Muñoz Oca