



2004 Grenache Washington State

Composition:	87% Grenache 13 % Syrah
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.64
Titrateable Acid:	5.1 grams/litre
Vineyards:	Elerding Vineyard, Prosser Destiny Ridge Vineyard, Horse Heaven Hills
Bottling:	August 30, 2005 185 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2004 was a year of many challenges. A devastating freeze in January permanently damaged many Washington vineyards, particularly in the Walla Walla valley. Fortunately, Rhône varieties are far more winter hardy than anyone imagined. Most of our fruit was not affected. The summer was one of the hottest on record, suggesting a very early harvest. But late August cooled and even brought some rain, which slowed sugar development while promoting good acidity and proper physiological maturity. We had a relatively normal harvest from mid-September through late October. The '04 wines are very promising; the fruit characteristics are similar to 2002 and 2003. We anticipate good complexity and intensity, with even better acid and pH ratios than prior vintages.

We produced several vintages of Grenache in the early nineties, and a Syrah/Grenache blend called "Tierra del Sol." The vines used for those early bottlings did not survive the freeze of 1996. We have now replanted, allowing us to return Grenache to our lineup. This is our fourth vintage from the new vineyards. We planted this grape primarily for our southern-Rhône blend ("Sirocco"), but we are such fans of Grenache that we bottled some varietally, with a bit of Syrah to lend structure, soften the acids, and fill in the mid-palate.

Washington's Rhône varietal pioneer, Doug McCrea transforms grapes from the finest Columbia Valley vineyards into wines of extraordinary depth, balance, complexity and finesse. Annual Production: 4000 cases of Syrah, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne and Cunoise.

90 points - Wine & Spirits "Doug McCrea consistently makes some of the most concentrated grenache in this country. This vintage, a blend of fruit from Elerding and Destiny Ridge vineyards, has a spicy, brown-bread aroma with a dusting of white pepper. Its rich black raspberry fruit provides a nice counterpoint: ideal for long-braised pork."

90 points - Wine Enthusiast "Grapy and bright, this is the quintessential fruit-driven red wine, with bright red cherry and raspberry flavors lifting the palate. Persistent and focused, it carries the flavors through a very clean and substantial finish, ending with roasted nut-skin tannins."

WASHINGTON STATE'S PREMIER RHÔNE VARIETAL WINERY

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