



2004 Grenache Washington State

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

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2004 was a year of many challenges. It began with a devastating freeze in January that permanently damaged many Washington vineyards, particularly in the Walla Walla valley. Fortunately, Rhône varieties are far more winter hardy than anyone would have 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 blend with Syrah called "Tierra del Sol." The vines used for those early bottlings were unfortunately lost in the big freeze of 1996. We have now replanted, allowing us to return Grenache to our lineup. This is our fourth vintage from the new vineyards. Our primary use of these grapes is in our southern-Rhône blend ("Sirocco"). But we enjoy the strawberry-and-spice of Grenache so much that we bottled some varietally, with a bit of Syrah to lend structure, soften the acids, and fill out the mid-palate.

A pioneer of Rhône varieties in Washington State, winemaker Doug McCrea transforms grapes from the finest Yakima Valley, Red Mountain and Columbia Valley vineyards into wines of extraordinary depth, balance, complexity and finesse. Annual Production: 4000 cases of Syrah, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne and Counoise.

Washington State's First Winery
Dedicated to Rhône Varietals

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