



2004 Sirocco
Washington State

Composition:	40% Grenache 25% Syrah 30% Mourvèdre 5% Counoise
Vineyards:	Sheridan, Yakima Valley Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain Destiny Ridge, Columbia Valley Elerding Vineyard, Yakima Valley
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.71
Titrateable Acid:	6.1gm/litre
Bottling	Aug 12, 2005 481 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This is the third vintage of our Southern Rhône blend, named for the hot wind that blows from Africa across the Mediterranean. The grapes were sourced from four excellent Washington State vineyards. At harvest, the fruit was destemmed and gently crushed, then fermented in 1¾-ton tanks using a variety of yeast strains isolated from the Rhône valley. When complete, the wine was dejuiced through large stainless steel strainers, then transferred to French oak barrels. This process yields exceptionally focused, high-quality wine low in phenolic solids.

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 varietals 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.

A pioneer of Rhône varietals 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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