



2005 Grenache Washington State

Composition:	83% Grenache 17 % Syrah
Vineyards:	Elerding Vineyard, Prosser Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.83
Titrateable Acid:	5.5 grams/litre
Bottling:	August 24, 2006 150 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2005 vintage was a perfect combination of a frost-free spring, an even, warm summer, and a protracted 'Indian summer' -- virtually ideal conditions for excellent wine grapes. The extra hang time produced mature, concentrated flavors and the season's ideal weather resulted in small berry size. 2005 will stand as one of the most outstanding vintages in the industry's history.

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 fifth vintage from the new vineyards, including the first crop from Ciel du Cheval plantings. 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.

92 points - Wine Enthusiast May, 2007: "Just when you thought Doug McCrea could not make a better Grenache, he has. This year's blend, which includes 17% Syrah, simply has more muscle and grip than ever before. The wine is loaded with concentrated berry preserves, then spiced up with pepper and minerality. Just the right amount of chocolate fills in the back end."

90 points - Wine & Spirits February, 2008: "Drawn from Ciel du Cheval Vineyard on Red Mountain and Elerding Vineyard, near Prosser, this wine has meaty scent of cola and cherry. On the palate it's pure grenache, a concentrated, deep strawberry flavor accented by graham and Christmas spices, with a solid grip for lamb sausages."

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery

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