

2005 Sirocco Washington State

Composition: 45% Grenache

35% Mourvèdre

15% Syrah 5% Counoise

Vineyards: Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain

Boushey Vineyard, Yakima Valley

Elerding Vineyard, Yakima Valley

Alcohol: 14.8% pH: 3.54

Titratable Acid: 6.1gm/litre

Bottling September 21, 2006

446 cases

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This is the fourth vintage of our Southern Rhône blend, named for the hot wind that blows from Africa across the Mediterranean. The grapes were sourced from three excellent Washington State vineyards. At harvest, the fruit was destemmed and gently crushed, then fermented in 1¾-ton tanks and 1-ton macrobins 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 for eleven months of ageing. This process yields exceptionally focused, high-quality wine low in phenolic solids.

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.

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: 3500 cases of Syrah, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne and Counoise.

91 points <u>Wine Enthusiast</u>: "The model is Châteauneuf –du-Pape, intense, smoky and loaded with jammy fruit, especially lots of ripe raspberry, and nicely delin-eated tannins, with a smack of baking chocolate in the finish. Once again, the Grenache dominates, an explosion of raspberries, plenty of buoyant acid, and a tart and nervy mouthfeel. Long, clean, very concentrated – a joy to drink."

Washington State's First Winery Dedicated to Rhône Varietals