



2007 Roussanne
Ciel du Cheval Vineyard
Red Mountain

Composition:	85% Roussanne 15% Marsanne
Vineyards:	Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain (Roussanne) Boushey LCLR Vineyard (Marsanne)
Harvest dates:	September 8 & October 2, 2007
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.64
Titrateable Acid:	5.8 gm/litre
Bottling:	May 21, 2008 — 220 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Roussanne, one of the six white Rhône grapes of Châteauneuf du Pape, is a relative newcomer to Washington State. Known for its longevity, the varietal takes its name from "roux", the French word for "russet" – an apt description of the grapes' reddish gold skins at harvest. It is also known for being a difficult grape to grow, with uneven yields and difficulty in achieving consistent ripening. Fortunately, we've had better luck with it than its reputation would suggest. Orange and peach blossom aromas and flavors of pear and apricot are characteristic of the variety. This year we added a portion of Marsanne as is traditional in the Northern Rhône. After gentle whole-cluster press, the Roussanne was fermented in stainless tank, the Marsanne in neutral barrels. The 2007 ended up slightly off-dry, enhancing its lush fruit and making it a perfect foil for spicy foods. While we don't have enough experience with our bottlings to know, Roussanne is reputed to age up to fifteen years because of its excellent balance of acid, minerality, and richness.

In 2007 the weather during bloom and fruit set was good with a warm May and June. Summer had fairly average temperatures with several heat spikes which temporarily slowed ripening. An unusually cool fall resulted in gradual ripening as the grapes took some time to develop flavors. In all, 2007 produced very good fruit purity with slightly lower pH's and soft acids following malolactic fermentation. The red wines display good color and flavor depth while the whites are somewhat restrained and elegant.

Washington's Rhône varietal pioneer, Doug McCrea transforms grapes from the finest Yakima Valley and Red Mountain vineyards into wines of extraordinary depth, balance, complexity and finesse. Annual Production: 3500 cases of Syrah, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Picpoul, Cinsault, Marsanne and Counoise.

90 pts., Wine Enthusiast "Rich, ripe and round, this lush take on Roussanne is loaded with cantaloupe, sweet pineapple and Meyer lemon fruit flavors. The fruit is brought forward by a small amount of residual sugar, which seems like an enhancement in this instance. The finish has just a hint of honey cough drop – sweet and slightly minty."

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery
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