



2007 Sirocco

Yakima Valley

Composition:	46% Grenache, 31% Mourvèdre 15% Syrah, 4% Counoise 4% Cinsault
Vineyards:	Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain (Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah) Elephant Mtn. Vyd., Yakima Valley (Counoise, Cinsault)
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.9
Titratable Acid:	5.3 gm/litre
Bottling	March 25, 2009 135 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This is our sixth vintage of a Southern Rhône red blend, named for the hot wind that blows from Africa across the Mediterranean. The grapes were sourced from two excellent Yakima Valley vineyards. At harvest, the fruit was destemmed and gently crushed, then fermented in small lots 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 (about 25% new) for seventeen months of ageing. This process yields exceptionally focused, high-quality wine low in phenolic solids.

This wine is a beautiful pairing with lamb, veal, hearty soups, medium-weight pasta preparations, upland game and fowl. The predominant Grenache brings peppery, spicy red fruits; the Mourvèdre adds smokiness and structure; the Syrah, Counoise and Cinsault spice it up with berries, licorice, violets and chocolate.

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.

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, Mourvèdre, Grenache, Counoise, Cinsault, Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne, Grenache Blanc and Picpoul.

90 pts Wine Enthusiast. This southern Rhône-style red is sourced from several Yakima valley vineyards, and overall this is brilliantly fruit-driven, racy, and precise. The Grenache dominates, an explosion of raspberries, plenty of buoyant acid, and a tart and nervy mouthfeel. Long, clean, very concentrated; it's a joy to drink.

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery

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