

2007 Sirocco Blanc Boushey Lower County Line Road Vineyard Yakima Valley

Composition: 37% Marsanne

33% Grenache Blanc

20% Picpoul 10% Roussanne

Harvest dates: Oct 2, 25 & 29, 2007

Alcohol: 14.1% pH: 3.48

Titratable Acid: 4.9 gm/litre

Bottling: April 25, 2008

353 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Dick Boushey, one of Washington's finest growers, planted these grapes for us in a new vineyard on lower County Line road in Grandview in 2004. We had wanted a white counterpart to Sirocco, blended in the style of Châteauneuf du Pape. So we sourced these four exquisite whites from Beaucastel cuttings at Tablas Creek (along with Cinsault and Clone C Syrah). So far as we know, the acre each of Grenache Blanc and Picpoul are the only bearing blocks in the State, making this a totally unique offering from Washington. This is the second vintage.

A classic case of "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" — these four wines, all fermented in mostly neutral French oak barrels, are interesting and distinctive by themselves but superbly enhance one-another in the blend. This delicious wine is a favorite of many chefs and was hugely successful in its first year.

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.

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