



2008 Syrah, Amerique Yakima Valley

Composition:	81% Syrah 18% Mourvèdre 1% Grenache
Vineyards:	Ciel du Cheval, Red Mtn. Elephant Mtn., Yakima Valley Sugarloaf, Yakima Valley
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.9
Titrateable Acid:	5.7 g/litre
Bottling:	June 8, 2010 - 267 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The vintage of 2008 will be remembered for its unusually cool summer and fall temperatures, but ultimately, for very classy wines. An exceptionally long, cool and rainy spring delayed bud break for at least two weeks. Once into July, a very cool summer presaged a late year, with slower and somewhat delayed veraison. As harvest approached, ripeness and overall flavor development lagged. Sugars barely reached 24° Brix – uncommonly low. Picking was late and somewhat compressed in time; finding space for fermenting about 80% simultaneously was a challenge. Generally medium-bodied with a transparent complexity, the whites are some of the finest ever and the reds will possess a rare “beauty” and elegant style. They should age gracefully.

At harvest, the grapes were gently crushed, then fermented in small lots following several days of cold soak, using a variety of yeast strains isolated from the Rhône valley. When complete, the wine was dejuiced through large stainless steel strainers, then gently transferred to one-, two- and three-year-old American oak barrels. The inclusion of older oak mitigates the intense, direct character often associated with American oak, resulting in a more balanced, integrated wine. Similar to an Australian Shiraz, the flavors are clean and berry-driven, augmented by the inclusion of a small portion of Mourvèdre. The oak acts as a framework providing excellent length and structure, surrounding the intense, mouth-coating fruit. This wine is capable of cellaring for five to ten years.

Washington's Rhône varietal pioneer, Doug McCrea transforms grapes from the finest Columbia Valley vineyards into wines of extraordinary depth, balance, complexity and finesse. Annual Production: 3000 cases of Syrah, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Picpoul, Cinsault, Marsanne and Counoise.

91 points, Wine Enthusiast.

“This wine displays a deep ruby color and a sultry, smoky nose of wild blackberries, Bing cherries, black currants, lavender, and whiffs of violets and oriental incense. The dark fruits are intense and deep, underlain with black licorice, dark chocolate, roasted coffee beans and minerals. The back reveals notes of roasted berries and nuts and intensifies toward the finish, with mixtures of leather, herbs (rosemary, sage) and spices (nutmeg, clove), followed by ripe, chewy tannins on the finish.” **18.5+/20 points** – Rand Sealey, Review of WA Wines

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