



2008 Grenache Yakima Valley

Composition:	81% Grenache 7% Syrah, 5% Counoise, 5% Cinsault, 2% Mourvèdre
Vineyards:	Sugar Loaf Vineyard, Yakima Valley Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain Boushey Vineyards, Yakima
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.9
Titrateable Acid:	5.1 grams/litre
Bottling:	August 26, 2009 349 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

We produced several vintages of Grenache in the early nineties, and a blend with Syrah called "Tierra del Sol." The vines used for those early bottlings were unfortunately lost in the big freeze of 1996. We have now replanted at several sites that are more winter-resistant, allowing us to return Grenache to our lineup. Our primary use of these grapes is in our southern-Rhône blend ("Sirocco"). But we enjoy the strawberry and spice of Grenache so much that we bottle some varietally, with small amounts of other varietals to add interest and richness.

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.

In the end we survived what was one of the most difficult vintages in twenty years. Generally medium-bodied with a transparent complexity, the whites are some of the finest ever and the reds will possess a rare "beauty," delicacy, and elegant style. They should age gracefully.

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

91 pts Wine Enthusiast

"This is a fine rendition of this variety, which is gaining popularity. It displays a ruby color and a smoky, seductive wild berry, Damson plum and cherry nose with scents of incense, cocoa bean, brambles, rubbed sage and lavender. In the mouth, the flavors are ripe and chewy, medium bodied, yet expansive, coated with cocoa powder, red licorice, toffee and French roast, and a pervasive earthy, mineral character. On the back, the sultry character re-emerges with an orange peel-laced, taffeta-like texture and ripe, spiced supple tannins."
18.5/20 points.

– Rand Sealey, Review of Washington Wines

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery

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