



## 2008 Roussanne

Yakima Valley

Composition:	100% Roussanne
Vineyards:	Ciel du Cheval, Red Mtn. Boushey Lower County Line Rd., Yakima Valley
Harvest dates:	September 18, 2008 & October 27, 2008
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.54
Titrateable Acid:	6.7 gm/litre
Bottling:	May 28, 2009 211 cases

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Roussanne is one of the six white Rhône grapes of Châteauneuf du Pape. This is our seventh vintage, making it a McCrea and Washington staple. Known for its longevity, the varietal takes its name from "roux", the French word for 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. 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.

Washington's 2008 vintage 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" and elegant style. They should age gracefully.

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.

**92 pts** Wine Enthusiast – **Editor's Choice**. A beautiful combination of fruit, acidity and minerality. Fully dry, excellent typicity, and classically northern-Rhône in style.

**Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery**

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