



2008 Sirocco Blanc
Boushey Lower County Line Road Vineyard
Yakima Valley

Composition:	40% Grenache Blanc 30% Marsanne 20% Roussanne 10% Picpoul
Harvest dates:	Oct 13 - 27, 2008
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.34
Titrateable Acid:	7.3 gm/litre
Bottling:	June 26, 2009 234 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. 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 third vintage.

A classic case of "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" — these four wines, all fermented in neutral French oak barrels, are interesting and distinctive by themselves but superbly enhance one-another in this Côte du Rhône blend. This delicious, complex wine is a favorite of many chefs because of its tremendous versatility.

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 simultaneously fermenting about 80% of the vintage 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.

95 points Editors' Choice, Wine Enthusiast: "Among McCrea's Rhône-inspired white wines, this is the most complete and complex. It's rich and dense, with honeycomb, lychee, lemon rind, pineapple and lots of stone - lovely and lingering. It seems to gain strength as it rolls through a sensational finish."

Best Washington Wine 2011, White Rhône-Style Blend, Seattle Magazine: "When it comes to Rhône-Style wines, ... McCrea Cellars is the gold standard."