



## 2008 Viognier Yakima Valley

Composition:	76% Viognier 12% Grenache Blanc 12% Roussanne
Vineyards:	Ciel du Cheval (Viognier, Roussanne) Boushey Lower County Line Road (Grenache Blanc)
Harvest dates:	September 18, October 1 & 13, 2008
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.37
Titratable Acid:	6.8 gm/litre
Bottling:	May 27, 2009 — 191 cases

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Twelve vintages ago McCrea introduced Viognier to the Northwest. Based on the dozens of wineries that have followed suit, it has proven to be very well suited to Washington. This year we add a new wrinkle: the Grenache Blanc and Roussanne contribute to the just-right balance for this fruit driven and opulent version of what's now a Washington classic. The Viognier and Roussanne were fermented in stainless steel, the Grenache Blanc in neutral barrels.

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" 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.

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery

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