



2009 Grenache Blanc

Boushey Vineyard
Yakima Valley

Composition:	100% Grenache Blanc
Vineyard:	Boushey Lower County Line Road
Harvest date:	October 12 & 20, 2009
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.51
Titrateable Acid:	4.9 gm/litre
Bottling:	September 28, 2010 124 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

With only a few acres in production in the Northwest, this is truly a very exclusive wine. The vines are sourced from the famous Beaucastel vineyard in the Rhône, via Tablas Creek. This vintage is fuller, richer, and more explosive than in the past. Unfortunately there isn't much available, for it's destined to be a favorite. The early response is tremendous. It will pair well with many foods, particularly any that would be enhanced by an unoaked Chardonnay.

What a difference a year makes! 2008 was one of the coolest growing seasons and 2009 virtually the opposite. A cool, moist spring delayed bloom but by mid-June we were progressing at a typical pace. July and August were two of the hottest back-to-back months in recent history. The sugars accelerated, ahead of other physiological aspects (such as pH and T.A.) needed for balanced grape maturity. In September, despite high sugars, we had to wait for the proper flavors to develop. By October 10th we had only harvested half the total crop, but that Saturday night brought an unprecedented early cold snap, "toasting" the vines' leaves and rendering them, in a sense, "frozen in time!" There was no choice but to harvest everything as fast as possible. The winery was packed to capacity with red fermenters and barrels of fermenting whites.

In retrospect, the vintage was a very good one for Washington State in spite of the record heat. The reds are being hailed for their great color depth and maturity. The white wines should be fairly opulent, as the skins developed a great deal of "bronzing" from the intense heat and extended exposure. This vintage is an expression of the very ripest fruit!

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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