



2009 Picpoul

Yakima Valley

Composition:	100% Picpoul
Vineyard:	Boushey Lower County Line Road
Harvest dates:	October 20, 2009
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.17
Titrateable Acid:	7.9 gm/litre
Bottling:	May 10, 2012 93 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Only the fourth Picpoul vintage in Washington, this year we were able to spare four barrels (all neutral oak) for this unique varietal bottling. With a mere $\frac{3}{4}$ th acre in production in the Northwest, this is truly a McCrea exclusive. Our vines are Beaucastel heritage, via Tablas Creek. Picpoul is one of the lesser-known Rhône varietals, and in its native France exhibits lean and green traits. The New World versions are fresh and crisp, but more aromatic, rounded and *spicy*. Picpoul roughly translates as "lip stinger," a name it surely lives up to. Its wonderful acidity and lemony flavor are a perfect match for shellfish or Asian cuisines. It has an exceptionally long finish. In contrast to the 2008, this year's version is fuller and richer.

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 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 "frozen in time." Thankfully, the fruit was not damaged. 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 are 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: 3000 cases of Syrah, Vignier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Picpoul, Cinsault, Marsanne and Counoise.

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery

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