



2009 Sirocco
Yakima Valley

Composition:	45% Grenache, 27% Mourvèdre 19% Syrah, 9% Counoise
Vineyards:	Sugarloaf Vyd., Yakima Valley (Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah) Ciel du Cheval, Red Mountain (Mourvèdre, Counoise)
Alcohol:	14.8%
pH:	3.98
Titrateable Acid:	4.7 gm/litre
Bottling	April 24, 2013 388 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Our Southern Rhône red blend is named for the hot wind that blows from Africa across the Mediterranean. The grapes were sourced from two excellent Yakima Valley vineyards. At harvest, the fruit was destemmed and gently crushed, then fermented in small lots using a variety of yeast strains isolated from the Rhône valley. When complete, the wine was dejuiced through large stainless steel strainers, then transferred to French oak barrels (about 20% new) for thirty months of ageing. It was blended into stainless tank for the remaining year. This process yields exceptionally focused, high-quality wine low in phenolic solids.

This wine is a beautiful pairing with lamb, veal, hearty soups, medium-weight pasta preparations, upland game and fowl. The predominant Grenache brings peppery, spicy red fruits; the Mourvèdre adds smokiness and structure; the Syrah, Counoise and Cinsault spice it up with berries, licorice, violets and chocolate.

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 grape maturity. In September, despite high sugars, we had to wait for the proper flavors to develop. On October 10th an unprecedented early cold snap, "toasted" the vines' leaves and rendering them 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.

A pioneer of Rhône varietals in Washington State, winemaker Doug McCrea transforms grapes from the finest Yakima Valley, Red Mountain and Columbia Valley vineyards into wines of extraordinary depth, balance, complexity and finesse. Annual Production: 3500 cases of Syrah, Mourvèdre, Grenache, Counoise, Cinsault, Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne, Grenache Blanc and Picpoul.

WASHINGTON STATE'S PREMIER RHÔNE VARIETAL WINERY

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