



2010 Viognier
Ciel du Cheval Vineyard
Red Mountain

Composition:	76% Viognier 11% Roussanne
Harvest dates:	September 30, October 21, 2010
Alcohol:	14.6%
pH:	3.14
Titrateable Acid:	7.6 gm/litre
Bottling:	April 25, 2012 — 214 cases

In 1997 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 revisit the complexity that Roussanne brings to what's now a Washington classic. The Viognier was fermented in stainless steel and finished in barrel, the Roussanne completely in neutral barrels.

The 2010 vintage was easily the coolest in the history of McCrea Cellars wines. A typical bud break was followed by an unusually cool, wet spring, leading to late flowering and inconsistent fruit set. Thankfully, Ciel du Cheval is one of the state's hottest sites so combined with the generally lower yields, ripening finally happened with good phenolic development and exceptional acidity. Even so, the Viognier was 10 to 14 days late. All in all, it was a challenging year, but ultimately, the fruit represents excellent purity and depth. This 2010 is more like the crisp, lean wines of Condrieu.

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.

"...this wine displays a brilliant gold color and a floral nose of pear, peach, casaba melon, orange blossom and honeysuckle. The fruit compote flavors are not overtly tropical, with a background of grape skin, orange peel and Red Mountain minerals; a creamy viscosity counterpointed by a squeeze of grapefruit juice on the lingering finish. All in all, this is a fine rendition of a Rhone-style white." **18.5/20 points** — Rand Sealey, Review of Washington Wines

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