



2011 Roussanne Yakima Valley

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| Composition: | 94% Roussanne 6% Viognier |
| Vineyards: | Olsen Vineyard, Yakima Valley Ciel du Cheval Vineyard, Red Mountain |
| Harvest dates: | October 27, 2011 |
| Alcohol: | 14.1% |
| pH: | 3.74 |
| Titrateable Acid: | 5.2 gm/litre |
| Bottling: | March 6, 2013 100 cases |

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Roussanne is one of the six white Rhône grapes of Châteauneuf du Pape. Known for its longevity, the varietal takes its name from “roux”, the French word for the grapes’ reddish gold skins at harvest. It is also known for being a difficult grape to grow, with uneven yields and difficulty in achieving consistent ripening. Fortunately, we’ve had better luck with it than its reputation would suggest. Orange and peach blossom aromas and flavors of pear and apricot are characteristic of the variety. While we don’t have enough experience with our bottlings to know, Roussanne is reputed to age up to fifteen years because of its excellent balance of acid, minerality, and richness. The small amount of Viognier, which was generously acidic, gives brightness and focuses the fruit.

Like the previous two, the 2011 vintage was a challenge. It was a difficult growing year long before the first leaves appeared; a freeze the prior November damaged vineyards throughout the Columbia Valley. Most vineyards were down 20-40 percent. In the end, we brought in very little fruit. Warm temperatures through September and into October gave us a very late season and somewhat made up for the cooler start. That, and the absence of a freeze like in 2009, helped ripen what grapes were left. But we’re quite happy with the outcome of the harvest that we achieved.

The resulting wines will be lower in alcohol and will have crisper, leaner, more food-friendly balance. They are more European in style.

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: 1500 cases of Syrah, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Picpoul, Cinsault, Marsanne and Counoise.

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