

2006 SHIRAZ

GROWING SEASON

- ▶ The 2006 growing season was marked by weather extremes, with near record rainfall in the Columbia Valley during the early spring and record high temperatures in the early and mid-summer.
- ▶ Although a challenging season weather-wise, exceptional sites including the warmer parts of the Horse Heaven Hills and Wahluke Slope saw early ripening and bold tannins from the high temperatures.
- ▶ In the cooler growing areas, later ripening prompted good acidity and flavor in white varieties, as well as good color, pronounced fruit flavors and less aggressive tannins in reds.

VINEYARDS

- ▶ The Grand Estates Shiraz is harvested predominantly from select vineyards located in the Horse Heaven Hills (balance and complexity), Wahluke Slope (texture and body), and Yakima Valley (aromatics).
- ▶ Columbia Valley Vineyards are seated east of the Cascade Mountain range. Up to 14,000 feet high, the mountains effectively block eastward-moving wet weather systems from the Pacific Ocean.
- ▶ Just 6 to 8 inches of rainfall reach the growing region annually. Vineyards are 100% drip irrigation.
- ▶ The soils have low fertility and low water-holding capacity, allowing precise control of vine growth patterns.
- ▶ Vines are planted north to south on south and southeast facing slopes.

VINIFICATION

- ▶ Grapes were destemmed and crushed with 10% whole berries remaining, then fermented on skins seven to 10 days with a twice-daily pumpover regime to gently extract color, aromas and flavors.
- ▶ The wine aged for 12-14 months in 60% French and 40% American oak barrels. The blend includes Viognier (co-fermented) to add complexity to the bouquet and also depth and nuance to the finished wine.

VINEYARDS ▶ 100% COLUMBIA VALLEY

HARVEST DATE ▶ OCTOBER 1, 2006

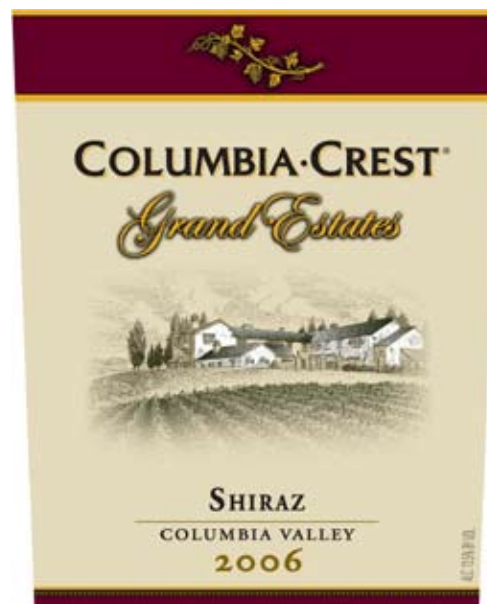
FERMENTATION ▶ 7-10 DAYS ON SKINS

ALCOHOL ▶ 13.5%

TOTAL ACIDITY ▶ 0.55G/100ML

PH ▶ 3.75

BLEND ▶ 86% SHIRAZ, 9% GRENACHE,
3% VIOGNIER, 2% MOURVEDRE



TASTING NOTES

"This opaque, reddish-purple wine contains expressive aromas of pepper, spice, blueberry, and violet. It makes a fresh entry on the palate with layers of fresh fruit and soft tannins that carry through the long silky finish. Enjoy this wine with grilled dishes."

Ray Einberger

RAY EINBERGER ▶ COLUMBIA CREST ▶ WINEMAKER