



COLUMBIA-CREST
Reserve

2006 Syrah

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 varietals, as well as good color, pronounced fruit flavors and softer tannins in reds.

VINEYARDS

- ▶ Vineyard sites are located on the Wahluke Slope, offering aromatics, texture and complexity; in the Cold Creek area, adding to the flavor and fruitiness; and in the Horse Heaven Hills, contributing balance and body to the finished wine.
- ▶ Syrah has an affinity for the region's warm daytime temperatures during summer months and cooler temperatures during the ripening season. Lower temperatures during ripening concentrate aromatics and enhance complexity.
- ▶ The region's low rainfall stresses the vines and ultimately yields concentrated fruit with depth and varietal expression.

VINIFICATION

- ▶ Grapes were destemmed and crushed with 20% whole berries remaining.
- ▶ Syrah co-fermented with 1.5 % whole berry Viognier (for aromatics) in open-top fermenters with twice-daily pumpovers, or in stainless steel fermenters with punch downs four times daily. Grenache was blended to soften the wine and enhance the mouthfeel.
- ▶ Lots were blended and placed in half new French and half new American oak barrels for malolactic fermentation.
- ▶ The wine was racked by gravity flow at three month intervals during its 30 months in barrels.

- VINEYARDS ▶ 100% COLUMBIA VALLEY
- HARVEST DATE ▶ SEPTEMBER 18, 2006
- BLEND ▶ 97% SYRAH, 1.5% GRENACHE, 1.5% VIOGNIER
- FERMENTATION ▶ 7-14 DAYS ON SKINS
- ALCOHOL ▶ 14.2%
- TOTAL ACIDITY ▶ 0.61G/100ML
- PH ▶ 3.78



TASTING NOTES

"This Rhoné style Syrah includes a touch of Viognier and Grenache, delivering aromatics of slight spice, white pepper, blueberry and sweet orange peel. Mouth-filling flavors of dark chocolate with hints of roasted coffee bean round out the notes of fruit and oak and lead to a distinctive blueberry-raspberry finish."

Ray Einberger

RAY EINBERGER ▶ COLUMBIA CREST ▶ WINEMAKER