



2015 Syrah Walla Walla Valley

Stephen Tanzer 90 points



Varietal(s): 100% Syrah

Vineyards: 60% Les Collines Vineyard
20% Va Piano Estate Vineyard
20% Stoney Vine Vineyard

Winemaker Notes

2015 was a HOT one! This was one of the earliest harvests on record for Washington's grape growing regions! We started bringing in our first grapes, French Creek Chardonnay, the second week of August and we were all in and processed by the second week of October. The overall quality of the fruit was above average to exceptional...especially the Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot. The overall tonnage per acre was down, but the berries were smaller with more concentrated flavors. We are thrilled with this vintage and hope you will be to!

The Walla Walla Syrah is our ode to the valley. Syrah is the grape that most gives a prolific sense of place in Washington, so it's hard to define what Walla Walla Syrah is. Is it the earth driven wines from The Rocks? Is it the bright, peppery wines of the foothills of the Blue Mountains? Is it the balanced and meaty wines that the mid-altitude sites give? There are certainly threads that run through the sites: lavender aromas appear on almost every wine, as do certain resinous herbal notes on the finish. However, defining just how much of every note will appear in syrah across the Walla Walla Valley is extremely difficult. For that reason, we've chosen to blend wine from 3 top sites to create a deep, complex wine that will give the drinker hints of its origin. The backbone of the 2015 vintage is Les Collines Vineyard, the highest altitude of the three. The wine starts with Huckleberry, Purple Flowers, and Black Pepper. All markers of Les Collines. A second nose of the glass reveals hints of smoked meat and subtle hint of funkiness and dark berry, reminiscent of The Rocks, where funk pervades. If you've tasted the Black Label Stoney Vine Syrah on its own, you know just how funky the wine can get. The palate is very even, smooth, and finished with a beautiful bouquet of spring herbs: juniper, thyme, rosemary, and lavender. This is due to the contribution from an addition of syrah from the Va Piano Estate Vineyard, where the scrub brush would grow naturally like the garrigue of the Northern Rhone, if not for cultivated vines taking up the same space. Hints of black olive and iron follow. 100% Syrah from Les Collines, Stoney Vine, and Va Piano Estate. The end result is a beautiful, extremely complex wine that will give a new note with every smell or sip. Aged in neutral 228 and 500 liter French Oak barrels. Drink now through 2030.

Justin Wylie, winemaker