

In 2014, Gramercy started two techniques that take the wines up another echelon – Native yeast and Concrete tank fermentation; resulting in less intervention and more minerality. ~ BRANDON MOSS

This release is all about rocks and stones.  
~ GREG HARRINGTON



## 2014 SYRAH “FORGOTTEN HILLS”

Walla Walla Valley

While we have been using Forgotten Hills since 2005, this is the second release of a vineyard designate Forgotten Hills for Gramercy. Located at the base of the Blue Mountains, the vineyard is under constant attack by cold weather, even during harvest. While not in the Rocks District, it sits on a pan of exposed basal – AKA volcano rock – that gives the wine deep minerality. Yes, terroir exists. End of story. We also fermented this wine in concrete, now our definitively preferred method for Rhone variety fermentation.

Forgotten Hills is about acidity, mineral, smoke, blood and iron. It is hard-core Syrah, for those that love the Old World. It starts life full of red fruit, then gradually the funk develops after about a year. We are extremely proud of this wine. Its maybe our favorite wine of the 2014 Syrah's.

We fermented this wine with 66% whole cluster in concrete (yeah concrete) and stainless steel. It was aged in a mix of older 225L and 500L puncheons for 18 months.

*“From a cool site on the eastern edge of the Walla Walla Valley, right up next to the Blue Mountains (not far from Les Collines), the 2014 Syrah Forgotten Hills offers cool, sappy, floral and peppery aromatics to go with meaty dark fruits, salt and olive characteristics that show more on the palate. Medium-bodied, fresh, juicy and impeccably balanced (as are all the wines from this estate), drink this classy, cool climate Syrah on release and over the following decade.” (91-93 pts Jeb Dunnuck)*

*Tasting Notes:* Smoked meat, salumi, Herbes de Provence, raspberry, cranberry, stone, iron, blood, red and yellow flowers. Extremely fresh and vibrant. Racy acidity and firm tannins. Medium bodied with extreme length and complexity.

Varietal: 100% Syrah

Whole Cluster: 66%

Vineyards: Forgotten Hills Estate  
Vineyard

Cases Made: 352

DRINKING WINDOW  
2019 - 2025

## 2014 SYRAH “LAGNIAPPE”

Columbia Valley

Most of this tasting note is the same or very similar to the notes for the 2013 Lagniappe. It's not that we are lazy and didn't want to write another note. The winemaking in 2013 and 2014 is essentially the same, as is the vineyard blend. To say again – we are continually fascinated by Red Willow Vineyard, farmed by the Sauer family in the Yakima Valley. Each year it seems to get better and better.

We debated with making the 2014 Lagniappe a single vineyard wine. The Red Willow fruit could easily stand alone. However, with this wine, we return to the past a bit. In 2005, when we first made Lagniappe, it was a blend of Yakima fruit and Forgotten Hills. In 2014, like the 2013, we again learned how brilliant Forgotten Hills blends with the great Syrah of Yakima. The addition of Forgotten Hills took the wine to another level. The final blend is 79% Red Willow, 15% Forgotten Hills Phelps Clone and 6% Minick Vineyard.

We said in 2013 – “Flash-forward to the 2014 vintage – wait until you taste Red Willow out of a concrete fermenter.” And when we say concrete, we don't mean eggs. Those are for Easter or omelets. We mean 10,000 lb, 1,500 gallon solid rectangular masses of mineral intensity. Concrete adds another dimension of minerality and aromatic complexity which is readily apparent in the wine.

This wine was fermented 66% on stems and aged in a mix of older 225L and 500L puncheons for 18 months. Its similar in style to the Forgotten Hills, although a bit riper.

*“The 2014 Syrah Lagniappe is another impeccable effort from this team. Made from 100% Syrah from the Red Willow, Forgotten Hills, and Minick vineyards. Its deep ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a brilliantly perfumed wine that offers lots of black and blue fruits, spring flowers, pepper, and violets. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, pure and polished, with terrific richness that never seems heavy in the least, drink bottles on release and over the following 10-15 years.” (93-95 pts Jeb Dunnuck)*

*Tasting Notes:* Smoked meat, intense core of strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, almost black fruit, mineral, black olive, pepper. Granite, stone, and cement. Some green herbs. Medium to medium plus bodied with noticeable tannins. Very floral on the nose. Length for days.

Varietal: 100% Syrah

Whole Cluster: 66%

Vineyards: Red Willow Vineyard (79%)  
Forgotten Hills Vineyard (15%)  
Minick Vineyard (6%)

Cases Made: 618

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2019 - 2025

# GRAMERCY CELLARS

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## 2013 SYRAH

Columbia Valley

The 2013 is the second vintage of the Columbia Valley AVA designated wine. As we search Washington for better and more unique Syrah, we see two things happening: First, our upper-end wines are becoming more vineyard focused with John Lewis and The Deuce based on Les Collines and Lagniappe based on Red Willow Vineyard. Second, we love the combination of fruit from the lower Yakima Valley and Walla Walla. We can make earthy wines with both structure and freshness. Third, we want to make a Syrah that has better availability and some potential for growth. Enter the Columbia Valley Syrah.

This wine blends four vineyards – the northerly Oldfield and Olsen with two Walla Walla sources – Old Stones in the Rocks and the iconic Les Collines. Oldfield, adjacent to Boushey, and Olsen provide red fruit and freshness; the Rocks gives pepper, funk, smoke, depth, and structure. Les Collines provides a world-class base for the wine. This wine, aged 18 months in neutral barrel, is about 50% whole cluster.

*“Readers looking for a killer Syrah to purchase to see what Washington is all about couldn’t do any better than a bottle of the 2013 Columbia Valley Syrah from Gramercy. Possessing lots of gamy, olive, peppery, lavender and salted meats, with a core of ripe plum and darker fruits, this beauty is full-bodied, supple, polished and utterly seamless, with no hard edges and a clean, focused finish that keeps you coming back to the glass. Buy this beauty by the case and drink it over the coming decade.” Jeb Dunnuck, Wine Advocate (94 pts)*

**Tasting notes:** Red Cherry, Blueberry, Raspberry, Leather, Saline, Meat, Smoke, Funk, Violets, Roses. Asian spice. The palate is medium bodied with crisp acidity and energy.

Varietal: 100% Syrah

Whole Cluster: 54%

Cases Made: 1573

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DRINKING WINDOW  
Now - 2030

## 2014 MOURVÈDRE L'IDIOT DU VILLAGE

Columbia Valley

This is our fourth release of Mourvèdre. The popularity of the L'Idiot is mind blowing. It sells out faster than any other wine at the winery. As I have said many times before, Mourvèdre is at home in Eastern Washington. We continue to be blown away by the complexity and intensity of the Mourvèdre from both Olsen and Alder Ridge Vineyards. Each vineyard contributes very different aromatics and structure. Olsen Vineyard, near Red Mountain, is all about red fruit, freshness, and aromatics. Alder Ridge, on the Columbia River in Horse Heaven Hills, brings black fruit, depth, and structure.

*The 2014 L'Idiot is 100% Mourvèdre mostly from Alder Ridge Vineyard, with a small portion of Olsen Vineyard. We fermented this with 58% whole cluster and aged the wine for 15 months in old oak.*

**Tasting notes:** It's all about the red – cranberry, raspberries, currant, sweet cherries, and red flowers. Well-cooked pot roast, leather, smoked meat, nori, saline, thyme. Fresh acidity.

Varietal: 100% Mourvèdre

Whole Cluster: 58%

Vineyards: Alder Ridge Vineyard  
Olsen Vineyard

Cases Made: 272

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DRINKING WINDOW  
Now - 2025

## 2014 CABERNET FRANC

Walla Walla Valley

MTA Only

This is the third Cabernet Franc that we have bottled for the MTA. Our first was in 2011 from Two Blondes Vineyard in Yakima. The second, in 2013, is along the same vein as this wine.

Brandon and I love Cabernet Franc. Obviously, when one says “rocks” in Walla Walla, people think Syrah. However, we say think Cabernet Franc. Here in the rocks, Cabernet Franc stays wild and green, similar to what one would find from a good site in Saumur Champigny or Chinon in the Loire Valley. Cabernet Franc, most of all, from the rocks is elegant. If picked early, it can resemble Pinot Noir in weight and texture. For the 2014 Cabernet Franc, the fruit comes from Old Stones Vineyard, located on the cooler side of the rocks district.

We also have two estate vineyards for Cabernet Franc – one located on JB George Rd on the valley floor near Pepper Bridge and a second at 1,750 ft overlooking Seven Hills Vineyard in Oregon named Octave. These vineyards yield a more Bordeaux-like style of Cabernet Franc, especially in the warmer years.

*This wine has a bit of an identity crisis, not sure if it wants to be like Loire or Bordeaux Cabernet Franc. Its a bit riper than the 2013, with a combination of red and black fruit, with both elegance and power. We found the blend of the three sites astonishing. The wine is about 65% Old Stones, 35% JB George Rd (gotta name that vineyard) and 5% Octave*

This wine is 100% Cabernet Franc, aged for 18 months in 225L neutral barrels.

**Tasting notes:** Red and black fruits. Elegant aromas of green – like someone wore pyrazine cologne but left the building. Rose petals, potpourri. Gravel, smoke, tobacco, cedar. Like a great Cuban cigar. Very floral on the nose, almost Pinot Noir-like. Slight vanilla. Medium plus acid and silky tannins. Exactly what we want from Cabernet Franc.

Varietal: 100% Cabernet Franc

Vineyards: JB George Vineyard, Octave  
Vineyard, Old Stones Vineyard

Cases Made: 186

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Now - 2050

## 2014 SYRAH “OLD STONES VINEYARD”

Walla Walla Valley

MTA Only

For those that follow our wines, the Old Stones Vineyard should be very familiar name. The Cabernet Franc MTA offering features Cabernet Franc from Old Stones. We have used the Syrah in various bottlings as well. This is, however, our first vineyard designate Syrah from the vineyard.

The Old Stones vineyard was originally planted by Jamie Brown, winemaker at Waters Winery in Walla Walla. The vineyard sits almost on Highway 125, at the eastern edge of the Rocks District AVA. This area is a bit cooler than the vineyards situated further west. Its a perfect site for Syrah and shows Jamie Brown's skill at locating great Syrah sites.

*This Syrah shows that signature Rocks funk nose without being over ripe. We have a love-hate relationship with the Rocks. We love the aromatics of the wines, but we struggle with the ripeness of the fruit. However, at Old Stones, we were able to pick early with ample ripeness and still have lower alcohol.*

This wine was fermented with 44% whole cluster and aged 15 months in neutral 225L and 500L French Oak.

**Tasting notes:** Red currant, cherry, blackberry, and Rocks funk. Salumi, beef jerky, green olive. Medium bodied with intense acidity. Green Provence herb and smoke. Moderate tannins.

Varietal: 100% Syrah

Whole Cluster: 44%

Vineyards: Old Stones Vineyard

Cases Made: 158

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DRINKING WINDOW  
Now - 2030

