



*For the past few years, we have moved our vineyards from sustainable to organic farming and are ecstatic with the results.*

*The wines of 2016, are both fresh and built for the long term.*

**- GREG & BRANDON**

## 2016 GRENACHE *Olsen Vineyard*

For those who have been in the wine club for a while, Olsen should be a very familiar name. In the past few years, we have made many wines from Olsen Vineyard. Recently we have loved the Syrah dominate GSM blends from the vineyard. However, years past featured Mourvèdre as the star. In fact, the 2010 Mourvèdre is perhaps my favorite wine we have ever made. It's getting to the point that we may have to retire the vineyard from MTA consideration.

In 2016, Grenache from large cask was the star. Brandon and I kept commenting on the fantastic quality of the Grenache in cask every time we tasted it from barrel. It's a combination of both elegance and power, half Old World and half New World.

Olsen Vineyard is an enigma. From the edge of the vineyard, Red Mountain is about 1.5 miles away, as the crow flies. We've found that Olsen isn't impacted by the same heat as Red Mountain. A few years ago, I had a conversation with a former vineyard manager at Ciel du Cheval about the temperature differences. His opinion was that most of the weather stops at Olsen - cloud cover, rain, etc. Red Mountain was frequently sunny when Olsen was overcast. Usually, the Grenache from Olsen Vineyard goes into the Third Man; however, it was a standout in 2016. We had enough to create a stunning Third Man and its own MTA bottling. Leif Olsen has the magic touch when it comes to Rhône varieties.

*We fermented the Grenache with 100% whole cluster and in concrete. It was aged in neutral Stockinger 20hl casks for 20 months.*

**Tasting Notes:** Explosive on the nose. Very fresh and alive. Bing cherry, red raspberry liqueur, orange peel, red and purple flowers, stone, mineral, smoked meat, Moroccan spice. Savory with zippy acidity and firm tannins. More earth on the palate than the nose. Vibrant. Reminiscent of Pinot Noir in its lightness. We haven't previously made a Grenache with this elegance and grace. Stunning.

Varietal: 100% Grenache

Vineyard: Olsen

Whole Cluster: 100%

Cases: 145

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**DRINKING WINDOW**  
2020 - 2036

*MTA ONLY*

## 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON *Phinny Hill Vineyard*

*MTA ONLY*

One day, in 2006, Greg woke up and wanted to make Cabernet Sauvignon.

On first moving to Walla Walla from New York City, we were "way too cool" to make Cabernet. That was for old wineries. The new wineries are making exciting varieties like Syrah and Grenache. But the first vintage of Gramercy was made at Va Piano Winery, where seven wineries shared the space. We got to taste Cabernet from all over the state. At first, we wanted fruit from Champoux, a legendary Cabernet vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills where famed wines such as Andrew Will's Sorella and Woodward Canyon were made.

After a conversation with the great people at Champoux, it was clear we would be pretty far down the totem pole on our quest for fruit. They told me about the vineyard across the street, a fantastic site with the perfect soils for Cabernet, famed by an amazing family - Dick Beightol and his sons.

In 2007, our relationship with Phinny Hill started. We first received an acre of fruit, which went into the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon. Today, we work with about 15 acres of Cabernet from the vineyard, including 5 acres that the Beightol Family planted specifically for us on a gravel outcropping. We have all ranges of vine age from about ten years old to the oldest blocks on the vineyard.

Brandon and I have always wanted to do a vineyard designate Phinny Hill. But it's the base of both the Reserve Cabernet and the Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. In 2016, we finally had enough fruit to make three fantastic wines from the property.

And the results - wow. Right now, besides the 2012 Reserve Cabernet, it's my favorite Cabernet we have made.

*This wine comes from three blocks across the property with varying slopes and soil compositions- G1, GB, & our gravel block. To understand the differences, you are just going to have to walk the vineyard with us. Then you also get coffee & tuna sandwiches from the most exclusive spot in Washington. It's worth it. This 100% Cabernet was aged in 39% new French oak, for 22 months.*

**Tasting Notes:** Very serious Cabernet Sauvignon. Old-skool. Brash, tight and focused. Blue and black fruit. Elegance. Grace. Gravel. A level up Cab. Polished. More firm and wound up than the Columbia Valley Cabernet. It drinks great now, but will benefit from age and will last beyond most people's patience to cellar.

Varietal: 100% Cab Sauv

Vineyard: Phinny Hill

Aging Profile: 22 months in 39%  
new French Oak

Cases: 170

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**DRINKING WINDOW**  
2022 - 2044

# GRAMERCY CELLARS

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## 2016 SYRAH "LAGNIAPPE / RED WILLOW" Columbia Valley

The release of the 2016 Lagniappe is a historic release for Gramercy. We first made Lagniappe in 2005 with the intent of blending Syrah from the Yakima Valley with Syrah from Walla Walla, primarily Forgotten Hills. But a chance meeting with Mike Sauer of Red Willow Vineyard in 2010 changed the trajectory of the wine.

Mike was on a wine panel with me, Greg, and offered an acre of Syrah. We were immediately smitten. We now farm about 5 acres at Red Willow. The coming years saw increased percentages of Red Willow in the Lagniappe blend, but we still considered ourselves a "blending house." However, after the 2014 and 2015 vintages, we realized that we had a few vineyards that demanded a single vineyard bottling. For the first time, we present the 2016 Lagniappe "Red Willow" Columbia Valley Syrah.

We farm a few different blocks at Red Willow for Syrah. The basis for the wine always is the Chapel Block. While we are not on the "true" Chapel block, we are on the same slope, around the corner with a slightly cooler exposure. This block is magic - bringing deep red fruit, smoke, earth, pepper, and most importantly, structure and intensity. The Marcoux block, across the property with a more gentle slope, complements the steeper block by adding mid palate and aromatic complexity. These are yin-yang blocks, each making the wine better.

*All Red Willow Syrah is fermented predominately in our concrete fermenters. When we say concrete, we don't mean eggs. Those are for Easter or omelets. We mean 1500-gallon solid rectangular masses of mineral intensity. Concrete adds another dimension of minerality and aromatic complexity, which is readily apparent in the wine. The 2016 Red Willow was fermented 80% whole cluster with native yeasts. It was aged in a combination of 20hL Stockinger cask and neutral 500-liter puncheons for 20 months.*

**Tasting Notes:** Combination of red and blue fruit. Meaty with pepper, mushroom, umami, smoke. Red and purple flowers. Fresh with strong acidity and tannins. Intense and aromatic. A bit backward that will require some time in bottle to reverse.

Varietal: 100% Syrah  
Vineyard: Red Willow  
Whole Cluster: 80%  
Cases: 573

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**DRINKING WINDOW**  
2022 - 2044  
Otherwise decant for 2 hours

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## 2016 MOURVÈDRE "L'IDIOT DU VILLAGE" Columbia Valley

We've been thinking about Mourvèdre more and more this year as well as its place in Washington. Mourvèdre is a fantastic grape. What blows us away is its ability to retain red fruit characteristics. Most red varieties in very warm areas will quickly turn to black fruit characteristics. While that can be okay, when combined with the intense earthiness and funk, it would soon become tiring to drink. However, if one plants Mourvèdre in a blistering climate, it still stays red fruit and retains its freshness.

The 2016 Mourvèdre is stunning, as is the 2017! Just you wait... We continue to be blown away by the complexity and intensity of the Mourvèdre from both Olsen and Alder Ridge Vineyards. Each vineyard contributes something different. We always say Olsen is all about freshness and aromatics. Alder Ridge brings depth and structure. In 2016, we opted for all-out power. This is a riper wine, atypical for us at Gramercy, but we feel the wine is still fresh and vibrant. Alder Ridge stood tall in 2016. It's the only Mourvèdre we used for the blend. It is brute force; down and dirty Mourvèdre. We used just a bit of Cinsault from Olsen to freshen and tidy up the edges. So, in truth, this is a single vineyard Mourvèdre from Alder Ridge Vineyard, though we do not proclaim that on the label. It can be our secret.

*The 2016 L'Idiot du Village is 95% Mourvèdre from Alder Ridge Vineyard and 5% Cinsault from Olsen Vineyard. We fermented this with 70% whole cluster and aged the wine for 20 months in old oak.*

**Tasting Notes:** Berries and blackness. Dark and deep with beautiful red fruits. That classic burned pot roast. Screams winter in front of the fireplace. Dark red cherry, plum, blackberry, peach skin. Purple flowers. Iodine, cured meats, and spice. On the palate, its rich and ripe but still fresh. Expansive with full palate length. Extremely long finish lasting minutes.

Blend: 95% Mourvèdre  
5% Cinsault  
Vineyards: Alder Ridge  
Olsen  
Whole Cluster: 70%  
Cases: 254

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**DRINKING WINDOW**  
2020 - 2037

## 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON Columbia Valley

The Cabernet Sauvignon always contains two vital parts - Phinny Hill and Sagemoor Vineyards. They are like chocolate and peanut butter together. 2016 saw a noteworthy introduction of our Estate vineyards in Walla Walla. For the past few years, we have moved the vineyards from sustainable to organic and are ecstatic with the results.

The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon is about 40% Phinny Hill, 33% Gramercy Estate and 27% Sagemoor - Bacchus & Dionysus blocks. Each vineyard is vital to the final blend. As always, Phinny is red fruit, backbone, and elegance. Sagemoor, with its aging vines 25 to almost 50 years old, is all about power and complexity. We have two estate vineyards in Walla Walla for Bordeaux varieties. Our JB George vineyard, across the street from the famed Pepper Bridge Vineyards, provided Cabernet. Brandon must have drunk an extra Red Bull that day, as we decided to ferment the Estate Cabernet in concrete, with fantastic results - mineral, tannin, smoke and, most of all, structure. In past years, Merlot from the old block at Pepper Bridge was included in the blend. In 2016, we used our JB George Estate Merlot. And lastly, we added a splash of Petit Verdot from our Octave Estate Vineyard, located adjacent to but high above Seven Hills Vineyard.

A note on Merlot. It's always a guessing game on the amount of Merlot. Merlot fills in the gaps that can be missing from Cabernet, especially in the mid-palate. In 2015, Merlot represented about 15% of the blend, as it did in 2008. The 2016 is a return to tradition, in line with the 2013 (8%) and 2012 (10%).

Secondly, the Merlot is always Walla Walla Merlot. It adds intensity and complexity in the mid-palate that is unique to Walla Walla. Adding Merlot from other areas doesn't ignite the spark for us. Walla Walla Merlot is the smack that Cabernet loves and needs.

*The 2016 Cabernet is a blend of 92% Cab Sauv, 7% Merlot & 1% Petit Verdot. It was aged in 30% new French oak and the remainder in 2-5-year-old French barrels. Per Brandon, "I think this is the best Columbia Valley Cabernet we have ever done."*

**Tasting Notes:** Screams Cabernet all day. Red and black fruits, gravel, pencil lead. Cedar. Dark chocolate. Dust/dirt. Acid is medium+ with sexy, developed tannins. Huge, long finish. Almost juicy but very serious. Slight herbal edge. Oak 100% integrated. Wow. We made this?

Blend: 92% Cab Sauv  
7% Merlot  
1% Petit Verdot  
Vineyards: Phinny Hill  
Sagemoor  
Gramercy Estate  
Aging Profile: 22 months in 30% new  
French Oak  
Cases: 1493

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**DRINKING WINDOW**  
2022 - 2042  
Otherwise decant for 2 hours

