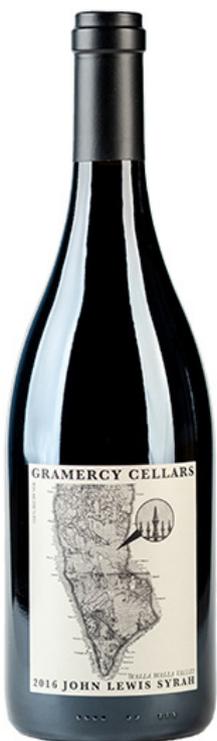


GRAMERCY CELLARS



2016 "JOHN LEWIS" SYRAH

WALLA WALLA VALLEY



BLEND: 100% SYRAH

VINEYARD: FORGOTTEN HILLS, LES COLLINES
RED WILLOW

AGING: 17 MONTHS IN 11% NEW FRENCH
OAK PUNCHEONS

ALCOHOL: 12.8%

WINERY RETAIL: 85

CASE PRODUCTION: 200 CASES

DRINKING WINDOW: 2020 - 2045

WINE ADVOCATE: 95 POINTS

WINE & SPIRITS: 94 POINTS

The 2016 John Lewis Syrah is perhaps my favorite we have ever made at Gramercy Cellars. Why? This is a wine of freshness and balance. It is a wine to ponder and consider. It is not a wine that hits you over the head with power. It requires thought and contemplation. The 2016 vintage afforded us the ability to pick earlier than usual. The Syrah was ripe at very low Brix levels. We saw an opportunity to make a wine that confidently tips its hat to the Old World Syrah.

When Brandon and I blend the wines, John Lewis is always the first wine considered. Blending is a two to three-day marathon with a hundred or so lots evaluated. We always start the same way. Line up the best lots that we have in the cellar, usually those fermented in concrete and aged in puncheons. All wines are tasted blind. Three vineyards are always at the top – Forgotten Hills, Red Willow, and Les Collines, usually Block 46. Sometimes there is a preeminent Syrah. In a number of the John Lewis vintages, it was Les Collines 46. Even if we love one particular block, we always do some trial blends. In 2016, Forgotten Hills, the Phelps Clone block, was the unrivaled victor. However, when we added Les Collines Block 46 and Red Willow, the blend was the clear winner.

The 2016 John Lewis Syrah is a barrel selection of our top vineyards – Red Willow, Forgotten Hills, and Les Collines. We fermented the wine 85% whole cluster in a Nomblot concrete tank for 17- 25 days with native yeasts. The wine was aged primarily in 500-liter puncheons with a few 225-liter neutral French barrels. All of the oak was over three years old except for two new 500-liter puncheons. The wine, never racked, was aged for 17 months then bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES: THIS WINE IS ALL ABOUT FLORALS – LAVENDER, ROSE PETAL, POTPOURRI. ASIAN SPICE, SMOKED MEAT, PROVENCE HERB. STRONG MINERAL AND GRAVEL. ON THE PALATE, FRESH AND ENERGETIC, WITH RED FRUITS – CRANBERRY, STRAWBERRY, WITH A HINT OF BLUE FRUIT. STRONG TANNINS WITH HIGH ACIDITY. CLASSIC COOL REGION FOCUSED SYRAH. A STUNNING VERSION OF JOHN LEWIS.



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