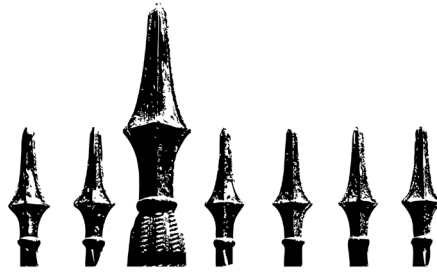


GRAMERCY CELLARS



2016 WALLA WALLA SYRAH WALLA WALLA VALLEY



BLEND: 100% SYRAH

VINEYARDS: HOLY ROLLER & FORGOTTEN HILLS

AGING: 18 MONTHS IN NEUTRAL FRENCH OAK PUNCHEONS & BARRELS

ALCOHOL: 12.5%

WINERY RETAIL: 40

CASE PRODUCTION: 1011 CASES

DRINKING WINDOW: 2020 - 2042

WINE ENTHUSIAST: 93 POINTS *EDITORS CHOICE*

WINE & SPIRITS: 93 POINTS

WINE ADVOCATE: 92 POINTS

Writing tasting notes on new, unreleased wines is often a difficult process. I need to look into the future to see where a wine is going to go. I tend to go around and around, thinking about it, especially when it is young. Sometimes, the wine needs time to evolve, open, and show itself. I know the wine will be great. The wine will find its way; just give it time. Other times, I taste one of our young wines while I'm writing the newsletter and drink the entire bottle myself. The 2016 Walla Walla Syrah is one of those wines.

I feel like we have been here before. We used to make a Walla Walla Syrah. We then decided to narrow that focus to the Les Collines Vineyard, as it has developed into a truly world-class Syrah site. Additionally, we bottle single-vineyard wines from Forgotten Hills, our estate vineyard as well the incredible Chris Figgins farmed Holy Roller Vineyard in the Rocks.

But as Brandon and I kept tasting our lots, it was evident that there was still something we wanted to show in Walla Walla. There is elegance, power, and beauty in combining the Rocks with fruit that is fresher like Les Collines or Forgotten Hills. So, we went back to a Walla Walla blend with a new wine. I guess what comes around goes around.

The 2016 Walla Walla Syrah is a blend of Holy Roller Vineyard in the Rocks District with our estate vineyard Forgotten Hills, at the base of the Blue Mountains. Like the Mourvèdre combo of Alder Ridge and Olsen, Forgotten Hills and Holy Roller are perfect compliments. I'll tell you why. Forgotten Hills brings elegance, freshness, acidity and structure while Holy Roller brings power and classic Syrah aromatics. We fermented the wine in a combination of concrete and small stainless-steel tank with 65% whole cluster. Forgotten Hills was fermented with a much greater proportion of whole cluster than Holy Roller. It was then aged in a combination of neutral French puncheon and 225L barrels.

TASTING NOTES: "CLASSIC SYRAH, THE 2016 WALLA WALLA SYRAH OPENS WITH A TIGHT CORE OF BLACKBERRY, RED CURRANT, DUSTY PLUM AND CRÈME DE CASSIS AROMAS, WITH COMPLEX AND SUBTLE NUANCES OF SMOKED MEAT, DUSTY BLACK PEPPERCORN AND VIOLETS. MEDIUM TO FULL-BODIED, THE PALATE IS STRUCTURED AND PRECISE, WITH A ROCKY TENSION ON THE MID-PALATE. THE WINE IS CLEAN AND EXPRESSIVE, FINISHING LONG AND CONTEMPLATIVE WITH HINTS OF VIOLETS AND LEATHER ON THE AFTERTASTE."

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