



2018 Sequel Syrah
Columbia Valley
John Duval, Winemaker

After 16 years as winemaker for Australia’s iconic Penfolds Grange, John Duval came to the Columbia Valley in 2003 as the “sequel” to his life’s work with Syrah.

Tasting Notes: An expressive wine showing wonderful varietal character. Dark and inky in color with layered aromas and flavors of wild blackberries, crushed rock, currants, charcuterie and oak spice. Sporting a rich mid-palate with appealing viscosity, the wine’s balanced acidity creates a vibrant impression that carries throughout a lovely, violet-imbued finish.

Vintage: After a slow start to spring, the 2018 growing season heated up quickly. Temperatures stayed quite warm throughout the summer, then the weather moderated significantly in early September to extend hangtime. Harvest conditions were ideal as the Columbia Valley settled into a pattern of warm days and cool nights to slow ripening just enough to allow the grapes to mature fully without sacrificing acidity. The result is a vintage marked by balanced, concentrated wines with appealing texture and richness.

Winemaking: Carefully selected, hand-harvested grapes underwent a variety of fermentation techniques to produce a wide spectrum of flavors. One-third of the Syrah was whole-cluster fermented to boost viscosity and enhance dimension on the palate. Several lots underwent an Australian technique known as “rack and return” that requires draining the tank twice daily and gently putting the juice back over the top of the grapes’ delicate skin to extract color and aromatics without imparting harsh tannins. Finally, a small portion of the grapes underwent submerged cap fermentation to enhance structure and mouthfeel. Once ready for barrel, the finished wine was aged 18 months in French oak, 65% new.

Vineyards: Three distinct Columbia Valley growing regions, each comprising roughly one-third of the blend, create a complex, multi-layered wine. Yakima Valley’s Boushey Vineyard is a moderately cool site, notable for the bright, elegant character of Syrah grown here. Bacchus Vineyard Syrah from Block 5A, planted in 1994, brings intense color and aromatics. Red Mountain Syrah gives the wine its impressive structure and backbone.

Blend:
100% Syrah

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.86
TA: 0.40 grams /100mL
Production: 2,215 cases