

## 2011 Carignan • Grenache

265 cases

### Tasting Notes

Wild and untamed, this wine contains substance and personality; certainly not prim and proper, but rarely are the best of times. Avant-garde meets tradition, in pioneering vineyards, two ancient varietals find a new home in the eastern Washington desert. Meaty, spicy aromas and bramble fruit flavors cavort with a refined texture and persistent finish.

### Harvest Notes

**Vineyards:** 46% North Ridge (Wahluke Slope)  
31% Alder Ridge (Horse Heaven Hills)  
17% McKinley Springs (Horse Heaven Hills)  
6% Steep Creek Ranch (Columbia Gorge)

**Appellation:** Columbia Valley

**Varietal:** 55% Grenache / 45% Carignan

### Vineyards

Northridge Vineyard, managed by Milbrandt Vineyards, and lies on the north edge of the Wahluke Slope AVA. Soils are extremely rocky, with southern exposure. Vines are trained VSP with a moderate density. Grenache from this site delivers classic red fruits while retaining acids.

Alder Ridge Vineyard yields wines of intensity and purity. Planted in a bowl along the banks of the Columbia River, with one of the longest growing seasons in the state, it is ideal for reliably ripening Mediterranean varietals.

McKinley Springs is planted at 1,100 feet in elevation on Warden sandy silt loam soils with north south row orientation. Canopy is trained Vertical Shoot Positioning with the west side left to “flop” to protect the grapes from the hot afternoon sun. Shoot thinning and green thinning occur to ensure an even intense crop. Perhaps it is the elevation, or the soils, but this vineyard gives us some of the best balanced fruit we work with.

Steep Creek Ranch is our home vineyard. It is the block you see if you have visited the winery in Lyle. We tend these vines with great love and care. The vineyard, as well as all of our property is managed with Biodynamic techniques and philosophy. This first acre at Steep Creek was an experimental block planted by the owners of Elk Cove winery in 2001. We purchased the property from them at the end of 2003. Steep Creek, as a bottled embodiment of our passion for great wines is only the beginning of what we would like to showcase from our future estate plantings.

### Vinification

All of the fruit is hand harvested and transported to the winery in the early morning. The fruit is destemmed directly into fermenters. Inoculated fermentation is in open top fermenters with manual pigeage. Pressed at dryness and barreled in French oak barrels (all neutral). Bottled in 14 months.

