SYNCLINE
WINERY

Wine Tech Notes

2012 Cuvée Elena

320 cases produced · 14.7% Alc by Vol.

Tasting Notes

Our Southern Rhone inspired blend was selected from our most balanced and elegant barrels from the 2012 vintage. Cuvée Elena delivers raspberry and blackberry aromas and flavors, with delicate violet perfume; complemented by hints of spice, garrigue and graceful length. This wine is mouth filling and intensely satisfying with a fine, silky finish.

Harvest Notes

Vineyards: Ciel du Cheval (Red Mountain) and Alder Ridge (Horse Heaven Hills)

Varietals: 45% Mourvedre / 45% Grenache / 10% Syrah

Vineyards

The forces that helped form **Ciel du Cheval** and the Red Mountain geology in general, were truly gigantic. The deep bedrock of most of the Columbia Basin is basalt, formed from the massive lava outflows caused by intense volcanic activity. On top of the basalt lie layers of sediment deposited by repeated ancient floods – the largest floods ever recorded. On top of the sediment are layers of sand and silt from eons of erosion and weathering. The high alkalinity and high calcium carbonate content produce wines of incredible structure and longevity. Both Mourvedre and Syrah from Ciel are used in this year's Cuvee Elena.

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. Mourvedre and Grenache from Alder Ridge are in this year's Cuvee Elena.

Vinification

Grenache was de-stemmed, inoculated in small open tops with manual pigeage then aged in neutral barrels. Mourvedre and Syrah were inoculated and fermented in 33 hectoliter concrete cubes, with a max temp of 81 degrees, twice daily pump-overs and early delestage. Syrah was also fermented with 20–30% whole clusters. This bottling is 100% free run juice that was put directly into 4–7 year old barrels, some in 700L size. Unfined. A light, polish filtration preceded bottling. Barrel time of 16 months.