



Wine Tech Notes

2013 Cuvée Elena

300 cases produced • 14.1% Alc by Vol.

Tasting Notes

Our southern Rhone inspired blend was selected from our most balanced and elegant barrels from the 2013 vintage. Rich and savory, the plum and blackberry aromas and flavors are complemented by hints of fig, pomegranate and tarragon, with a graceful, velvety finish.



Harvest Notes

Vineyards: 67% Ciel du Cheval, Red Mt.
33% Alder Ridge, Horse Heaven Hills

Appellation: Columbia Valley

Vineyards: 61% Mourvedre / 33% Grenache / 6% 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. Grenache from Alder Ridge is in this year’s Cuvee Elena.

Vinification

Grenache was de-stemmed, with 25% whole clusters added into small open top fermenters with manual pigeage, then aged in neutral barrels 225 L to 500L in size.

Mourvedre was destemmed with 20% whole clusters added to fermentation in 33HL Concrete cubes with twice daily pump-overs and early delestage in 2-7 year old French oak Puncheons (500L).

Syrah was destemmed and fermented in small open top fermenters with manual pigeage, then aged in small, older French oak. Unfined, with 16 months in barrel. This bottling contains 100% free run juice.