



Wine Tech Notes

2017 Syrah

ESTATE GROWN, COLUMBIA GORGE

5 barrels produced • 13.2% Alc by Vol.

Tasting Notes

Within lies exotic spices, violets and juicy, ripe black plum with hints of game, and savory garrigue. Layered with elegance and intense ruby color; this showcases our cool climate growing region.



Harvest Notes

- Vinyard:** Steep Creek Ranch and Nelson Vineyards
- Appellation:** Columbia Gorge
- Varietal:** 100% Syrah

Vineyards

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

We have been farming **Nelson Vineyard** since 2009. This vineyard is located directly to the south of our winery on the shores of the Columbia River. Having implemented Biodynamic practices and organic farming, we have slowly been able to increase our yields on this wind blasted site. Situated on a peninsula jutting out into the Columbia River, this vineyard has the earliest bud-break and latest frost of any site we farm. Planted to Syrah and a small amount of Viognier, the vineyard is trained VSP and planted in windblown soils. With photosynthesis inhibited by the wind, the vineyard produces dark wines of moderate alcohol with a distinct savory aspect.

Vinification

All fruit was hand picked, with 30% whole cluster fermentation in small open top fermentors.

Fermentation was with native yeast, no fining, and a blend of manual punch downs, and pigeage à pied.

Free Run juice was kept separate for elevage in neutral French oak barriques and Ermitage 'cigar' barrels.

Bottled March 2019