

Elephant Seven

2018 River Rock Vineyard Syrah



TASTING NOTES

This wine exudes the sense of place that is the cobblestones of Milton-Freewater. Savory and earthy. Forest floor with hints of lavender and nutmeg on the nose. Roasted meat, umami, and bacon fat canvass the mid-palate then give way to iodine, blackberry, and fig. Lush and velvety with a long juicy finish.

This is a classic "Rocks" Syrah with great depth. It needs some time to open up, decant prior to enjoying. This will benefit from another two years of cellaring, if you have the patience. Should age nicely at least ten years from release.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The fruit was harvested and sorted by hand on September 15, 2018. A three-day cold soak was employed prior to primary fermentation. Approximately 25% whole cluster fermentation. During fermentation only yeast hulls and oxygen were used to aid fermentation - no commercial yeast or chemicals. Primary fermentation lasted approximately eleven days, while the wine stayed on skins for a total of twenty-seven days including an extended maceration. During fermentation, manual punch downs were performed three times per day with a rack-and-return performed as necessary to aid fermentation. Secondary fermentation was also feral, the lees were stirred every few days. The wine was aged for seventeen months in French Oak, about 25% of it new, and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered in February 2020. No chemicals, enzymes, adjuncts or other nonsense has been added to this wine.

VINEYARD

Owned and farmed by Dana Dibble, River Rock Vineyard sits in the heart of the Rocks of Milton-Freewater. The cobbly Freewater loam that comprises the soil is the essence of "the Rocks." The cobblestones that cover the area are a beautiful sight to behold. This area produces wines with a unique sense of place unlike any other in the world.

Retail Price: \$42

Blend: 100% Syrah

Clones: Joseph Phelps

Cases Produced: 291

Appellation: Walla Walla Valley

ABV: 13.5%

pH: 3.90

TA: 5.3 g/L

VA: 0.52 g/L

Harvest Date: September 15, 2018

Bottle Date: February 27, 2020

Aging: 17 Months in French Oak, 25% New