



2011 Sequel Syrah
Columbia Valley
John Duval, Winemaker

After 16 years as winemaker for Australia's iconic Penfolds Grange, John Duval came to the Columbia Valley in 2003 as the "sequel" to his life's work with Syrah.

Tasting Notes: With intense color and spicy aromatics, this is a lively wine loaded with blackberry and fresh currant flavors that carry throughout a broad mouth feel. Notable for its soft tannins, firm backbone and beautiful balance, the 2011 Sequel is a vibrant wine with a hint of toast and black olive adding to its complexity.

Vintage: The 2011 vintage produced intense, vibrant wines that are not only enjoyable in their youth but also offer firm structure and ripe tannins to make these wines excellent candidates for the cellar. Credit a cool spring and moderate summer that developed fresh, intense black fruit character in the grapes and warm September days that allowed the grapes to reach physiological maturity and finish ripening perfectly. Cool fall evenings offset the warm days to preserve the grapes' acidity and ripe tannins, resulting in wines with great structure and backbone.

Winemaking: Carefully selected, hand-harvested grapes underwent a variety of fermentation techniques to produce a wide spectrum of flavors. An Australian technique known as "rack and return" that requires draining the tank twice daily and gently putting the juice back over the top of the skins was employed to extract color and optimal richness. The finished wine was aged 18 months in French oak (65% new) barrels.

Vineyards: Syrah from Yakima Valley's Boushey Vineyard (20%) gives Sequel its bright, fresh fruit character. These grapes are the perfect complement to the dense, dark fruit grown at Bacchus Vineyard (34%), from one of the oldest Syrah blocks in the state. Grapes from Candy Mountain (32%), adjacent to Red Mountain, give the wine its backbone. The remaining Syrah is grown at Sonnet Vineyard at The Benches in the Horse Heaven Hills, planted to a Shiraz clone that John recommended for its dark, rich and complex character. Dionysus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon contributes structure and adds to the wine's appealing mid-palate.

Alcohol: 14.8%

pH: 3.78

TA: 0.57grams / 100ml

Blend: 95% Syrah; 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Release Date: Spring 2014

Production: 1,225 cases