

# Elephant Seven

## 2022 Blue Mountain Vineyard Roussanne

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### WINEMAKER NOTES

We picked much later than normal in 2022. Harvest for Rhone whites was the first week of October, almost 4 weeks later than a typical year. The later picking date appears to have given the white wines a more savory tone yet still maintain freshness and acidity. 2022 will likely be one of the best years we'll see for white wines in the Walla Walla Valley. As always, we adapt to what mother nature provides us, and as such, we've got more Rhone white releases coming later in the year.

Acacia flowers, spearmint, candied citrus fruit, nutmeg and spice. A medium bodied mid-palate with flowery herbs, white currants, honeysuckle, apple, and cheese rind. Like all of our wines in this vintage, there's an intriguing balance between savory tones, fruit, and minerality. I love pairing Roussanne with goat cheese. It will also pair well with seafood and cream-based dishes. Drink now through next 5 years.

The fruit was handpicked in early October, sorted by hand, and after crushing was left on skins for 24 hours or so. A long, cool primary fermentation of approximately 60 days was employed to maintain freshness, aromatics, and a fruit-forward style. The wine underwent full secondary fermentation, resulting in a bit more weight in the palate. Fermented and aged in neutral French Oak, the wine was aged on lees, which were stirred once a week through primary and secondary fermentation, and without racking.

### VINEYARD

Blue Mountain Vineyard is in the foothills of the Blue Mountains on the Eastern side of the Walla Walla Valley AVA and sits at 1,200 feet elevation. The vineyard uses Old English Southdown "Babydoll" Sheep to provide an environmentally friendly way of maintaining vineyard groundcover and soil fertility. The soil is silt loam (loess) with excellent drainage. Substantial airflow, ever-changing sun exposure, and moderate amounts of rain make this an ideal growing location.

*Retail Price: \$30*

**Blend:** 100% Roussanne

**Appellation:** Walla Walla Valley

**ABV:** 12.9%

**pH:** 3.48

**TA:** 6.4 g/L

**VA:** 0.40 g/L

**Harvest Date:** October 7, 2022

**Bottle Date:** March 23, 2023

**Aging:** 10 Months in neutral French Oak

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