



2012 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: An intensely colored wine with spicy aromas of cassis, smoked meats and a hint of olive tapenade woven throughout layers of black currant, blueberry and a trace of licorice. Wonderfully balanced, with a broad mouth-feel and soft tannins that hold together seamlessly.

Vintage: The 2012 vintage produced beautiful wines with excellent color and bright, rich flavors. Early spring days were warm; April conditions were near perfect, then temperatures cooled considerably in May and June before warming for the summer and remaining remarkably consistent throughout harvest. Small berries loaded with intense flavor matured beautifully, showing rich flavors and ripe, balanced tannins in the finished wine.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes underwent a variety of fermentation techniques to produce a wide spectrum of flavors, including 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 to extract color and optimal richness. Some lots underwent whole-cluster fermentation to enhance richness and dimension on the palate; a few lots were fermented with a submerged cap to enhance structure and mouth-feel. Aged 18 months in all French oak barrels, 65% new.

Vineyards: The 2012 Sequel is a blend of a variety of top Columbia Valley Syrah vineyards, each contributing unique character and added complexity to the finished wine. Bacchus Vineyard Syrah, from a south-facing block planted in 1993, gives the wine its dense, dark character. Candy Mountain Syrah is even more concentrated, adding structure to the finished wine. Yakima Valley's Boushey Vineyard Syrah adds a bright, lively appeal. From The Benches in the Horse Heaven Hills, Syrah is harvested from a choice, Shiraz clone block that delivers richness, wild cassis and a hint of smoky spice. Cabernet Sauvignon from Dionysus Vineyard rounds out the remainder of the blend, adding complexity and structure.

Alcohol: 14.8%

pH: 3.80

TA: 0.60 grams / 100ml

Blend: 94% Syrah; 6% Cabernet Sauvignon

Release Date: September 2014

Production: 1,581 cases