



2016 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: The 2016 Sequel Syrah has a dark, garnet color with enticing aromas of black fruits, sweet spice, fresh espresso and roasted meats. Expressive on the palate, this is a complex and layered wine with vibrant flavors of ripe figs, wild blackberries and a hint of olive tapenade that linger on the finish.

Vintage: Like the last several growing seasons, 2016 was another hot year that required extra care in the vineyards. Building on the success of our canopy management program over the last few vintages, we worked with growers throughout the season to encourage growth of the canes and outside foliage to protect against the sun while opening up the fruit zone for even maturation. Warm temperatures in the fall hastened ripening, but the Columbia Valley’s cool autumn nights protected the grapes’ acidity resulting in bright, vibrant wines.

Winemaking: Syrah’s delicate skin requires careful handling to avoid harsh tannins so a variety of gentle fermentation techniques are used to give Sequel a wide spectrum of flavors without imparting bitterness. One-third of the grapes were whole-cluster fermented to enhance richness and dimension on the palate. Several lots underwent 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, soft tannins and aromatics. A small portion of the grapes underwent submerged cap fermentation for structure and mouthfeel. The finished wine was aged 18 months in French oak barrels, 65% new.

Vineyards: Yakima Valley’s Boushey and Den Hoed Grandview Vineyards comprise 50% of this delicious blend and give the 2016 Sequel its bright, vibrant character. Bacchus Vineyard Syrah (25%), grown on a south-facing block planted in 1993, adds black fruit character and richness. A Shiraz clone from Sonnet Vineyard at The Benches brings blueberry notes to the wine, and a small amount of Red Mountain area Syrah adds to the wine’s dark, brooding character. Dionysus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon provides added backbone.

Blend:
93% Syrah
7% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.74
TA: 0.58 grams /100m
Production: 1,924 cases