



2017 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: Deep and inky in color, the 2017 Sequel Syrah offers inviting aromas and flavors of fresh blueberry, violet and a hint of cassis. Black olive tapenade and savory spice persist across the mid-palate. Multi-layered and well structured, the wine’s refined texture and enticing viscosity lead to long, impressive finish.

Vintage: Budbreak was later than usual in 2017 due to a cool, wet spring, but temperatures warmed nicely for bloom. Conditions moderated in early summer before warming again in July to drive total heat accumulation a bit above average for the season. Harvest began towards the end of August, then temperatures cooled considerably in mid-September to extend hang time and allow the grapes to reach full physiological maturity without spiking sugars. The resulting wines are rich and expressive, displaying excellent acidity and structure that is reflective of the quality of the vintage.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested grapes underwent a variety of fermentation techniques to produce a wide spectrum of flavors. One-third of the Syrah was whole-cluster fermented to boost viscosity. 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 without imparting harsh tannins. Finally, a small portion of the grapes underwent submerged cap fermentation to enhance structure and mouthfeel. The finished wine was aged 18 months in all French oak barrels, 60% new.

Vineyards: The 2017 Sequel is a blend of diverse vineyards that contribute distinct characteristics to the finished wine. Yakima Valley’s Boushey Vineyard, notable for its bright, elegant character, comprises one-third of the blend, as does Bacchus Vineyard. Grown on a south-facing block planted in 1993, Bacchus Syrah adds black fruit character and richness. Red Mountain Syrah gives the wine its structure and backbone. Finally, a small amount of Shiraz clone grapes from Sonnet Vineyard at The Benches contribute dark cassis aromas and flavors.

Blend:
100% Syrah

Alcohol: 14.9%
pH: 3.88
TA: 0.55 grams /100ml
Production: 2,085 cases