

# 2014 Minnick Hills Syrah



**pH:** 3.99

**Titrateable Acidity:** 6.2 g/L

**Alcohol:** 13.4%

**Harvest Parameters:** September 30, 2014 at 23.4 Brix, 3.78 pH, and 4.3 g/L of titrateable acidity.

**Blend:** 100% Syrah, Minnick Hills vineyard, block 4. 22% New French oak, aged for 18 months.

**Cases produced:** 220

**Release Date:** May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Winemaker's Notes:** Modeled after Cote Rotie, this wine opens with blackberry, blueberry, and black plum fruits followed by chocolate, black pepper, and licorice on the nose. On the palate, these fruits continue to dominate backed by black pepper from the 33% whole cluster fermentation and star anise and oak tannin from the 22% new French oak. Fruity in its youth, in the next couple years this wine will transform into a beauty. 3.99 pH and 6.2 g/L of titrateable acidity. Drink now through 2030.

**Winemaking:** The fruit for this wine is from the northeastern portion of the Walla Walla Valley, near the Walla Walla airport, so I model this wine after the Northern Rhône. To that, I did not want the grapes to get overripe, so I picked them a bit early at the very end of September. After the fruit was picked in the mid-morning, it was destemmed into one ton plastic fermenters with the addition of enzymes that increase color and aroma and a SO<sub>2</sub> and ascorbic acid blend to control oxidation. One third of the fruit was foot stomped for whole cluster fermentation. After a day of soaking on the skins, I added D254 yeast and malolactic bacteria on day three to ferment both sugar and malic acid at the same time. The wine fermented for 10 days before being pressed to barrel to finish ML. Secondary fermentation completed a month later and SO<sub>2</sub> was added to protect the wine from oxidation and microbiological spoilage. The wine was racked twice before being bottled on April

29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 after crossflow filtration. The wine saw 22% new French oak for 18 months.

## **Awards:**

Gold - 2016 San Francisco International Wine Competition

88 pts - Wine Enthusiast (Sean Sullivan)

Double Gold - 2016 Great Northwest Wine Platinum Judging

Silver - 2017 Savor NW wine competition

18.5/20 pts - Rand Sealey's Review of WA Wines, April 2017

Silver - 2017 TEXSOM International Wine Awards

Silver - 2017 Cascadia Wine Competition

92 pts - International Wine Report, May 2017

Bronze - 2017 Walla Walla Valley Wine Competition

Silver - Bellingham NW Wine Festival, August 2017

Bronze - 2018 Savor NW Judging