

# SEQUEL

2020 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 TO COLLABORATE WITH GILLES NICAULT, LONG SHADOWS' DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING AND VITICULTURE, ON A SEQUEL TO HIS LIFE'S WORK WITH SYRAH.

## TASTING NOTES:

An expressive Syrah, deeply colored, with dark, spicy aromas and complex, multi-layered flavors. Bright cherry, wild blueberry and savory black olive tapenade are enhanced by the wine's vibrant, mouth-filling viscosity and texture. Beautifully rich with refined tannins stretching across a long, concentrated finish.

## VINTAGE:

The 2020 growing season was marked by low yields, a hot summer, and extended fall hang time that produced spectacular wines with outstanding flavors, texture, and vibrancy. After a typical bud break in mid-April, May temperatures were moderate. The weather cooled in June, then warmed in July and August, with a few heat spikes along the way. Just when it seemed harvest would be rushed, ripening conditions decelerated in Washington and photosynthesis slowed enough to avoid high sugar accumulation and protect the acidity in the grapes.

BLEND:  
100% SYRAH

ALCOHOL: 15.2%  
PH: 3.87  
TA: 0.56 GRAMS/100ML  
PRODUCTION: 2,025 CASES



## WINEMAKING:

Syrah's delicate skin requires careful handling during fermentation to extract richness from the grapes without imparting bitter tannins, so grapes for this wine undergo three gentle fermentation techniques to produce a wide range of flavors. Whole-cluster fermentation is used to boost viscosity and add backbone. Submerged cap fermentation enhances structure and mouthfeel, and 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 is used to extract color and richness. Aged 18 months in all French oak barrels, 65% new.

## VINEYARDS:

Three distinct Columbia Valley growing regions, each representing roughly a third of the blend, are used to create a complex, multi-layered wine. Yakima Valley's Boushey Vineyard gives Sequel its liveliness and vibrancy. Syrah from a collection of Red Mountain vineyards provides ripeness and structure. Bacchus Vineyard Syrah adds intense color and aromatics.