



TASTING NOTES

2001 Columbia Valley River Beauty Syrah

Isenhower

509.526.7896

3471 Pranger Road

Walla Walla, WA 99362

www.isenhowercellars.com

info@isenhowercellars.com

100% Syrah

60% Ranch at the End of the Road (Red Mountain)

40% Sundance Vineyard (Wahluke Slope)

Winemakers' Notes

We destemmed all the grapes with minimal crushing. No stems were added back because the stems were very green. We inoculated both lots of Syrah must with two yeast strains that are from the Rhône, SYR and L2226. Only DAP and B-vitamins were added to provide nutrition. No color enzymes, aroma enhancing enzymes, or cold soaking were employed. Peak cap temperatures ranged from 90F to 92F. Both lots were pressed at dryness in a Wilmes bladder press. The press cut off was determined by Denise and Brett's taste of the press wine. ML bacteria were added at pressing. All freerun and press wine was immediately blended together, settled overnight, then racked to new French Oak puncheons. The five selected puncheons were all Billion coopered wood from the Nevers forest in France with medium toast with no toasted heads.

After the malo-lactic fermentation was completed the Ranch and Sundance were racked separately. The final blend was created during the second racking in June 2002. The Reserve Syrah will be racked a total of four times and bottled unfinned and unfiltered on April 7th. 250 cases produced.

Blueberries dominate the nose with the Red Mountain dust underneath. In the mouth the River Beauty was wonderful minerality and fruit. Supple tannins and acidity to make the wine the perfect match with lamb.

What do the two vineyards bring to the River Beauty blend? We can definitely say that Ranch Syrah is the most tannic of our Syrah lots and provides the muscle, grip, and intensity. Sundance is flashier & leaner.

Rated "88" points" by Wine Spectator

River Beauty is a Washington wildflower and a metaphor for the life blood of Eastern Washington. We selected five puncheons to be the River Beauty from the eighteen puncheons of Syrah we made in 2001. All five puncheons were coopered by Billion.