

## TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

Pulsating with energy. The heart of darkness is here. Black olive, black currant, black plum and black earth. You know... BLACK. Bacon fat, crushed rock and dried mountain herb assembled in the best possible way.



# **VINTAGE NOTES**

2017 was a fantastic year for making wine with a cool spring and a fair amount of rain. Washington had an ideal spring for heathy vines. The moderate temperatures during summer were perfect for small clusters and yet delayed veraison into the fall where we had a consistent ripening season that allowed us to hang the fruit for perfect tannin and flavor without losing acidity or acquiring too much alcohol. Overall it was a vintage to remember.

### **CURRENT & PAST SCORES**

#### 98 Points, Jeb Dunnuck

"From a basalt outbreak in the southwest portion of Walla Walla, not destemmed and brought up in new puncheons, the 2017 Syrah Klein Vineyard sports a deep ruby/plum color to go with stunning notes of blackcurrants, chocolate, loamy soil, and spiced meats. It's powerful and fullbodied, yet stays light and graceful on the palate, with no sensation of weight or heaviness. It's a stunning, Hermitage look-alike to enjoy over the coming 20 years."

#### 95 Points, James Suckling

"This is a chewy red with crushed-stone and blackberry character. It's rich and layered, yet not overbearing. Flavorful and very intense. It goes on for minutes. Drink or hold."

### WINEMAKING

Varietal Breakdown: 100% Syrah Appellation: Walla Walla Valley Vineyard(s): Klein Vineyard (100%) Production: 1.8 tons per acre | Native yeast | 100% whole cluster pressed | 47 days on skins | 40% new French oak puncheons | 22 months barrel-aged on lees Wine Analysis: 5.8 g/L titratable acidity | 3.99 pH | 15.0% alcohol | No residual sugar UPC: 184745001505

