



# 2021 K VINTNERS ROYAL CITY SYRAH

## TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER CHARLES SMITH

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An immediate umami rises with a beacon to the silky wine waiting in the glass. Seaweed, oyster shell, game, soy, all resting on a bed of stone. A wine of majestic blood.

## VINTAGE NOTES

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The 2021 was one of the warmest vintages to date in Washington. It started with an early bud break due to nice weather and moderate temperatures. June was one of the warmest in recorded history, resulting in very small berries. Veraison and the beginning of the ripening season were nice and even, creating a beautiful, extended ripening season that led to excellent fruit with incredible concentration. Overall, 2021 is a distinct and lovely vintage and produced fantastic wines to enjoy now and into the future.

## CURRENT SCORES

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### 97+ Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

“Another structured, backward wine that’s going to benefit from bottle age, the 2021 Syrah Royal City is all varietal from the Stoneridge Vineyard on the Royal Slope. As with the other Syrahs here, it wasn’t destemmed and was brought up in used oak. Red and black fruits, toasted nuts, peppery herbs, and savory, meaty, spicy notes all define the aromatics, and it’s medium to full-bodied on the palate, with good mid-palate depth, ripe, building tannins, and a great finish. It needs to be hidden in the back of the cellar for 4-6 years to show its full potential yet should see its 20th birthday in fine form.”

### 97 Points, *James Suckling*

“This is a muscular syrah, smoky and deep, with aromas of whole peppercorns, cardamom and anise, plus green coffee beans and iron. Meaty undertones. Full-bodied, firm and compact, with fine-grained yet broad and encompassing tannins. Powerful, and a little stern for now. Try from 2027.”

## VINEYARD

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### Stoneridge Vineyard (100%)

Alluvial fan gravel bed, the site rests above the flood plain of the Columbia River. Under the topsoil is a layer of caliche and basalt 6-12” deep, creating a calcium and iron rich media that forces roots to struggle.

## WINEMAKING

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**Varietal Breakdown:** 100% Syrah

**Appellation:** Royal Slope

**Production:** 2.3 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole cluster fermentation in stainless steel Rules, 53 days on skins | 26 months barrel-aged on lees in 60% new French oak puncheons | 1027 cases

**Wine Analysis:** 5.7 g/L titratable acidity, 3.89 pH, 14.5% alcohol, no residual sugar

**UPC:** 184745100031

