

# B. Leighton

## 2018 B. LEIGHTON SYRAH

### TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER BRENNON LEIGHTON

Inviting, Intriguing, brooding and vivacious. Black cherry, wet earth, grilled meats, fireplace ash and black pepper take you there and then beautiful notes of seaweed, camphor and black tar finish it off in time for another sip and more exploration of this wonderful wine!

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2018 vintage was incredible! This outstanding vintage began mild followed by a long and dry ripening season in the fall. This enabled us to hang the fruit to reach optimal ripeness without losing acidity or increasing sugars. The wines from 2018 are exceptional in many ways, from the great expression of the whites to the beautiful refinement and complexity of the reds. Enjoy!

### CURRENT SCORES

#### 94 Points (+ 'Buy Now: Washington Wines', January 2023), *James Suckling*

"Lots of smoky and grilled-meat character to the ripe-berry highlights. It's full-bodied with round, juicy tannins and lots of flavor and intensity. Yet, it remains fresh and vivid at the end. Vanilla touches make it even more interesting. Drink or hold."

#### 94 Points, *Jeb Dunnuck*

"It's a classic Yakima Valley Syrah with its full-bodied, rich, meaty style as well as ample darker fruits and notes of smoked game, chocolate, tapenade, and spice. It reminds me of a great vintage of Jaboulet's Domaine de Thalabert and should keep for 15 years."

#### 93+ Points, *Vinous—Owen Bargreen*

"Bright dark red. Highly nuanced aromas of dark berries, licorice, chocolate, minerals, wet earth, black pepper and cured meats. Then quite primary, even tight, on the palate, showing lovely floral lift to the flavors of dark berries, spices, pepper and forest floor. This is lower in pH and less obviously sweet than the Gratitude blend. Leighton told me this Syrah fruit typically arrives late and spends less time on its skins than the Syrahs he makes under the K Vintners label, as he's seeking to capture freshness and focus and to make a more "demure, subtle" style. The very long, lightly medicinal finish is firmly tannic but not dry, as much savory as fruity, with a note of violet providing lift. I'd give this beauty a couple years in the cellar."

### VINEYARD

#### Olsen Brothers Vineyard (100%)

Olsen Brothers is located on the Northwest bend of the Yakima River as it turns North at Red Mountain. The elevation averages about 1000 feet and the soils are sandy with broken basalt.

### WINEMAKING

**Varietal Breakdown:** 100% Syrah

**Appellation:** Yakima Valley

**Production:** 2.0 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole cluster fermentation, 35 days on skins | 20 months barrel-aged on lees in 29% new French oak puncheons

**Wine Analysis:** 5.7 g/L titratable acidity, 3.91 pH, 14.5% alcohol, no residual sugar

**UPC:** 184745007101

