

B. Leighton

2021 B. LEIGHTON GRATITUDE

TASTING NOTES BY WINEMAKER BRENNON LEIGHTON

Journey taken... experience had... smile of joy... moments of awe... supple, inviting and pure. Raspberry, cherry blossoms, grapefruit peel, and perfumed potpourri notes scream from the background. Wet rock, nori seaweed, black pepper, corn and fresh lemon thyme. Subtle and refined with a voice that carries long into the night... deep breath... *sigh*

VINTAGE NOTES

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 & PAST SCORES

94 Points, *James Suckling*

"This is almost animalistic on the nose, showing wet leather, moss, dried herbs and olives. And then salty and intensely savory on the palate, mouthwatering, with a full body and a wild freshness. 75% mourvedre, 20% grenache and 5% syrah. Drink or hold."

94 Points, *Anthony Mueller–Robert Parker's Wine Advocate* (v2020)

"...offers seductive red fruit tones with notions of potpourri and dusty cherry blossoms. The wine is medium to full-bodied on the palate, with succulent flavors of spiced red plum, pink peppercorn and juicy black raspberry and lifting tannins over the food-friendly and succulent finish. Just over 8,000 bottles were filled. Bravo!"

93 Points, *Eric Guido–Vinous* (v2020)

"...wickedly spicy and fresh ... cooling on the nose, with a white pepper flourish that gives way to dusty red currants and clove hints. Its textures are silky and soothing, with ripe strawberry and black cherry accentuated by rosy inner florals that form toward the close. This lingers impossibly long while maintaining a lovely freshness, as nuances of black raspberry and red inner florals slowly fade. It's like something that's straight from the South of France. Very nice."

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: 75% Mourvedre, 20% Grenache, 5% Syrah

Appellation: Yakima Valley

Production: 2.2 tons per acre, native yeast, 100% whole cluster co-fermentation in concrete tanks, 30 days on skins | 18 months barrel aged in 25% new French oak Demi Muid | 567 cases

Wine Analysis: 5.7 g/L titratable acidity, 3.85 pH, 14.5% alcohol, no residual sugar

UPC: 184745007309



HOUSE OF SMITH