

Variety: Syrah (53%) and Grenache (47%)

Origin: Idiot's Grace Vineyard (Mosier, OR, USA) and Hannah's Bench (Lyle, WA, USA)

Grower: Brian McCormick; Robert McCormick

The Site: The Syrah here grows in an unirrigated patch of dune-sandy ground near the entrance to our Mosier property. The Grenache we harvest from a precarious, south-facing ledge high upslope of the Columbia in Lyle, WA.

The Vintage: Spring a saner season (than '15 or '16), with good moisture; then summer stacked on abundant warm, dry days culminating in the dreary dreamlike skyscape as the Gorge's Indian Creek fire burned. Cool, lovely conditions returned prior to white grape harvest, interspersed with some rain—a balm for tattered nerves, and welcomed even by the vines.

Harvest: By hand, on October 10 (Grenache) and 16 (Syrah)

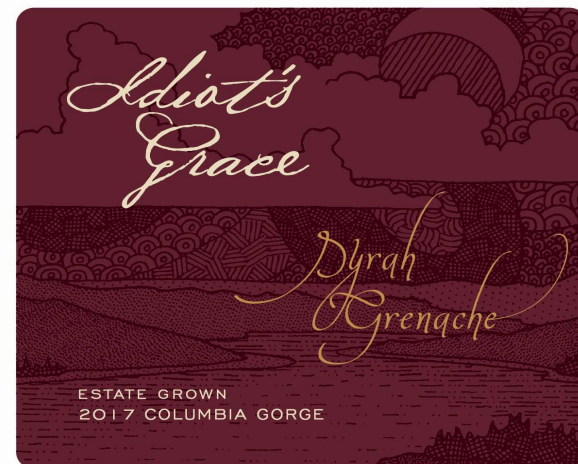
Lab: 14.3% ABV, pH 3.71

In the Field Grenache set well this year. Fruit was gorgeous and healthy, the berries small and thick-skinned. Our management of the vigorous Syrah block was better than ever, though we work nowhere harder than we do here.

Fermentation, Upbringing and Bottling

The first year in our new cellar. Wines fermented slowly by the activity of vineyard-resident microflora (no packaged yeast having ever crossed the threshold here); the component wines of this blend “went to bed” sweet, and dried out in the following spring.

Bottled on 5/2/2019. 310 cases produced



Idiot's Grace

Syrah / Grenache

2017

Columbia Gorge AVA

These grapes were ripe; the ferments, brooding. This vintage shows a gamier, more savory mood of our Syrah, and the dark red of the Grenache brings its fruit to the arrangement with much the same effect as the juxtaposition of spiced plums with roast duck, or quince with long-simmered lamb.

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