

# River Beauty

2013 | COLUMBIA VALLEY



100% Syrah

58% Wallula Vineyard Sara Lee Clone Syrah  
34% Olsen Ranch Clone 877 Syrah  
8% Dutchman Vineyard (Phelps Clone) Syrah

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

pH: 3.95

TA: 6.08 g/liter

RS: <0.5 g/liter

14.8 % alcohol

289 cases produced



## Harvest and Winemaking

2013 was one of the warmest summers in our experience. However a series of storms in early October changed the weather to cool and dry conditions. Cooler temperatures allow the grapes to retain natural acidity and patiently ripen. Wallula Vineyard was picked on September 30, Olsen Vineyard on October 15, and Dutchman Vineyard was harvested on October 21.

All the grapes were hand picked and hand sorted. 25% of the clusters were pitchforked into the fermenting bins and the remaining 75% of the Syrah was destemmed. Yeasts native to the respective vineyards conducted the fermentations. The fermentation cap was punched down three times daily. Only the free run wine was retained for the River Beauty.

River Beauty is a three vineyard, three clone blend of Syrah from moderately warm to down right cool vineyard locations. Warmer locations add fruit flavors while cooler sites enhance the pepper and savory character of Syrah. Obviously we like to play around with different clones of Syrah. Each clone has different cluster shapes, different flavors, and ripens differently.

## Tasting

A Syrah on the elegant end of the spectrum, this wine leads with aromatics of sweet dark fruit, subtle smoke and black olive, with a dramatic lift of lavender and violet.

Acidity, fruit and tannin structure are all in balance here, with notes of black tea and bright fruit. The wine shows richness and complexity with sufficient acid and tannin to age a bit in the cellar.

Not a bruiser or heavyweight, this River Beauty is a finely balanced and nuanced Syrah. About as good as it gets!

Denise and Brett Isenhower founded their winery in 1999. They are committed to sustainable winemaking through low input farming, native yeast fermentation, natural corks, American made bottles, no capsules, and recycled paper labels.

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