



2007 Yakima Valley Rara Avis Grenache

vineyard

The Elerding Vineyard Desert Block was planted in 1996 and is one of Washington's oldest Grenache vineyards. Planted on a North facing slope in a shallow wind blown loess, Elerding Vineyard is located in the far southwest corner of the Yakima Valley between Prosser and Mabton. Elerding Vineyard is a warm site and one of the few vineyards in the Yakima Valley capable of ripening Grenache but only at 1.52 tons per acre.

tasting

The dark red color invites one's nose to smell the aromas of Bing cherry, strawberry, wet basalt rocks, perfume, and a wet forest. This Rara Avis is a gorgeous wine, full of feminine charm and alluring character. The Rara Avis is focused, sleek, and taut in the mouth. Enjoy through 2012 with lamb, ratatouille, and other Provençal style cuisine.

harvest and elevage

The Grenache grapes were hand harvested on September 29 (25.5 brix, 3.47 pH, 4.5 g/l TA), destemmed, 40 gallons of juice was bled off for production of Rose, and the remaining grapes were cold soaked for 3 days prior to inoculation with GRE yeast. Fermentation was rapid and hot. The grapes were pressed on October 8, only the free run was retained for the Rara Avis. The Grenache wine finished fermentation and malo-lactic fermentation in 500 liter used french oak puncheons. The Grenache was only racked after the malo-lactic fermentation was complete; afterwards the wine rested in puncheons until bottling in August 2008. 8% Syrah from the Elerding Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills was blended in prior to bottling.