

Dead Horse

2009

Red Wine

The 2009 Vintage

The 2009 vintage was unlike any vintage we've had in recent memory. Coming off of a stellar 2008 vintage, hopes were high entering 2009. The vintage got off to a slow start with bud break beginning very late. As we moved thru the summer months, we saw record highs sweep eastern Washington. As summer gave way to autumn, the heat did not relent. It became clear that a harvest that had started slow had suddenly transformed into a harvest marked by accelerated ripening and very little time between varietal pick dates. The final straw was an early frost that swept through eastern Washington on the 10th of October and continued until the 13th. Fortunately, at that point our harvest was 95% complete, and we were able to pull the last of our fruit on the 11th, avoiding much of the damage caused by the frost. Once the dust settled, we found the wines to have an impressive concentration, similar to 2003, but with better balance and overall focus. The wines in 2009 are broad and lush with big primary fruit character balanced by fine texture and refined acidity.

Winemakers Notes

Inspired by the great left-bank blends of Bordeaux, Dead Horse is a Cabernet Sauvignon-driven wine supported by Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Malbec. The 2009 Dead Horse is a testament to a beautiful vintage and the incredible work done in vineyards. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot show the power of this vintage, while the Merlot and Cabernet France lend balance and refinement. Each lot was fermented separately in 1.5-ton fermenters from between 12 and 18 days. Then the wines were gently pressed to barrel where malolactic fermentation was completed. The wine was racked only twice prior to bottling and is unfinned and unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of blackberry, violet, and raspberry combine with layers of tealeaf, tobacco, bramble, mint, cracked black pepper and clove. The palate is rich and supple with elements of cocoa and vanilla bean. The texture is refined with elegant tannins.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc,
11% Malbec, 8% Merlot & 6% Petit Verdot

VINEYARD SOURCES: Ciel du Cheval & Klipsun Vineyards

APPELLATION: Red Mountain

OAK COMPOSITION: 92% New French Oak

BARREL PRODUCERS: Taransaud, Ermitage, Saury, Le Grand, Sylvain, DJ

BARREL AGING: 20 months

CHEMISTRY: Alc. 14.9%, pH 3.72, TA 0.60 g/100ml

BOTTLING DATE: June 18th, 2011

RELEASE DATE: November 18th, 2011

Mark Ryan Winery

Founded in 1999 by Mark Ryan McNeilly, Mark Ryan Winery is a small winery located in Woodinville, Washington. Our goal is to produce handcrafted wines that represent the vineyard from which they come, the character of the varietal, and our style. From the vineyards to the winery, our uncompromising commitment to quality and our passion to produce the best wines possible, inspire us to make these wines for you.