



CORLISS®



2012 SYRAH

Tasting Notes: Ink-black in color with a deep magenta hue. Dark, seductive aromas of black licorice, fig and tar, meld with sweet, spiced notes of violet, clove and star anise. The wine is powerful and seamless in texture, with brooding black fruits that slowly give way to rich, savory flavors of smoked venison, flint and scorched earth. Silky, fine-grain tannins combine with a crushed rock minerality, drawing out the palate to a long, luxurious finish.

Winemaking Notes: The 2012 vintage produced deeply aromatic wines with excellent color, richness and concentration of dark fruit flavors. The 2012 Corliss Syrah is a blend of fruit from Stillwater Vineyard on the Royal Slope and our Canyons Estate Vineyard on Red Mountain. Syrah blocks were hand-harvested along with a small amount of Viognier to be used for co-fermentation. After carefully sorting into small concrete and oak fermenters, the must underwent a three day cold soak to bleed intense color and supple tannins from the skins. Twice-daily pumping over of the cap during fermentation was followed by gentle basket pressing into new and used French oak puncheons and barriques. The final blend was assembled and, after a total of 26 months in barrel, was put to bottle and allowed to mature for a further two years prior to release.

Ratings:

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar: 93+ pts

(3% Viognier was added to give the wine a floral topnote; aged in 50% new oak for 26 months; all Phelps clone): Deep ruby. Crystallized black raspberry, licorice, bitter chocolate, flowers and subtle earth tones on the nose, complicated by hints of oak char and charcoal. Conveys a lovely creamy texture to its sweet, powerful raspberry and darker fruit flavors. Can't quite match the two wines from Bordeaux varieties for

aromatic perfume but boasts a silky, seamless texture and more Syrah personality than past vintages of this bottling. Finishes long and sweet, with fully ripe tannins and a suggestion of cocoa power. Perhaps the best vintage yet for this wine.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, reviewed by Jeb Dunnuck: 96 pts

I loved this 2012 Syrah, this is clearly a top vintage for this estate. Blended with 3% Viognier and aged 26 months, it offers an inky color as well as lots of blackberry, smoked, barbecued meats, licorice and pepper. Full-bodied, decadent and layered, yet with awesome purity, it's certainly not for those craving mid-weight aromas and flavors, I love it! Drink this beauty anytime over the coming decade.

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