



# *2003 Fidelitas Syrah*

*columbia valley*

## **WINEMAKER'S NOTES**

Step aside and make room for our 2003 Syrah. She's our rock star—drinkable and delicious, a true up-and-comer in Washington's soon-to-be-hottest wine category. Spicy cherries, bold jammy fruit, and a hint of moist earthiness come center stage in this 2003 Syrah. Its layers of complexity are backed up with exceptional acidity, mild tannins, and a lengthy finish that won't soon be forgotten.

## **VINTAGE**

2003 was one of the warmest growing seasons and harvests in the last 20 years. This resulted in smaller berry size and lighter cluster weights, which produced lower yields. The unusually hot growing season resulted in early ripening in the warmer areas and a quick start to harvest with flavorful ripe fruit in the early part of the vintage. Modest precipitation in August and September helped cool down the vineyards, slowed down ripening and allowed many of the vineyards in the cooler regions to benefit from the extra hang time which improved fruit flavors and intensity.

## **VINEYARDS**

This is 100% Syrah from two of the very best Syrah vineyards in the Columbia Valley: Sundance Vineyard (60%) and West Hills Vineyard (40%).

## **FERMENTATION AND AGING**

All the fruit for the Syrah was hand picked and sorted in the vineyard. Upon arrival at the winery, the fruit was destemmed and crushed directly to a small fermentation tank where the wines were punched down three times daily. Average primary fermentation was seven days in length. Upon completion of fermentation, the wines were gently pressed off and were put into barrels immediately. Once fermentation was complete in barrel, the wine was put through malolactic fermentation immediately. While aging in oak barrels, the wines were racked quarterly to naturally clarify the wine.

## **VARIETAL COMPOSITION**

100% Syrah

## **OAK AGING**

The wine was racked to 100% small oak barrels (French and American), with approximately 60% new oak, and was barrel-aged for 18 months with four rackings.

## **TECHNICAL**

Bottled 240 cases; pH 3.81, acid 0.61 g/100ml, 14.2% alcohol by volume, <0.02% residual sugar

## **RELEASE DATE**

June 1, 2005

