

2014 SYRAH “LAGNIAPPE”

Columbia Valley

Most of this tasting note is the same or very similar to the notes for the 2013 Lagniappe. It’s not that we are lazy and didn’t want to write another note. The winemaking in 2013 and 2014 is essentially the same, as is the vineyard blend. To say again — we are continually fascinated by Red Willow Vineyard, farmed by the Sauer family in the Yakima Valley. Each year it seems to get better and better.

We debated with making the 2014 Lagniappe a single vineyard wine. The Red Willow fruit could easily stand alone. However, with this wine, we return to the past a bit. In 2005, when we first made Lagniappe, it was a blend of Yakima fruit and Forgotten Hills. In 2014, like the 2013, we again learned how brilliant Forgotten Hills blends with the great Syrah of Yakima. The addition of Forgotten Hills took the wine to another level. The final blend is 79% Red Willow, 15% Forgotten Hills Phelps Clone and 6% Minick Vineyard.

We said in 2013 — “Flash-forward to the 2014 vintage – wait until you taste Red Willow out of a concrete fermenter.” And when we say concrete, we don’t mean eggs. Those are for Easter or omelets. We mean 10,000 lb, 1,500 gallon solid rectangular masses of mineral intensity. Concrete adds another dimension of minerality and aromatic complexity which is readily apparent in the wine.

This wine was fermented 66% on stems and aged in a mix of older 225L and 500L puncheons for 18 months. Its similar in style to the Forgotten Hills, although a bit riper.

“The 2014 Syrah Lagniappe is another impeccable effort from this team. Made from 100% Syrah from the Red Willow, Forgotten Hills, and Minick vineyards. Its deep ruby/purple-tinged color is followed by a brilliantly perfumed wine that offers lots of black and blue fruits, spring flowers, pepper, and violets. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, pure and polished, with terrific richness that never seems heavy in the least, drink bottles on release and over the following 10–15 years.” (93–95 pts Jeb Dunnuck)

Tasting Notes: Smoked meat, intense core of strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, almost black fruit, mineral, black olive, pepper. Granite, stone, and cement. Some green herbs. Medium to medium plus bodied with noticeable tannins. Very floral on the nose. Length for days.

100% Syrah
Red Willow Vineyard (79%) Forgotten Hills Vineyard (15%) Minick Vineyard (6%)
Cases Made: 618
Drinking Window: 2019 - 2025

