

2015 helix syrah

Phinny Hill Vineyard, Horse Heaven Hills Jefferson Cup Nominee



tasting note

The record-breaking heat of 2015 delivered a very early Syrah harvest with exceptional character. Unlike other grape varieties, Syrah does not cease photosynthesis when temperatures rise above 95-98 degrees causing it to ripen earlier in very hot years relative to other varieties. The wine is loaded with adventurous scents of game, mineral, earth, macerated berries, dried fruit, and hints of spice and tar. Surprisingly, bright acidity and soft tannins refresh the palate with mulberry, huckleberry, cooked blueberry and black currant with intriguing layers of fleshy game, gravel, loam and graphite. This is a dynamic, multi-faceted wine offering something new to explore in every corner of the palate.

technical information

Blend: 100% Syrah

Alc.: 14.5%

pH: 3.77

TA: 7.0 g/L

Bottling Date: March 2017

Production: 195 cases

Release Date: November 2019

Drink Between: 2019-2025

the vineyards

Phinny Hill We were one of the first brands to source fruit from Phinny Hill and we're the only ones who've used our 5-acre block. Our vines are east-facing, get plenty of heat and achieve good hang time. Overlooking Champoux Vineyard and the Columbia River at an elevation of 750 feet, Phinny Hill is one of the most picturesque spots in the Horse Heaven Hills.

Our Helix Syrah flourishes on this stellar site in Alderdale, WA and we use Syrah Clones 174 and 470. Syrah Clone 174 lends a dark fruit note and beautiful color to our wine as well as boosts the tannin structure. Syrah Clone 470 tends to have more blueberry and boysenberry notes with higher acid, good color and more weight to add to the overall body of the wine. Together these clones are blended to achieve a mid-Rhone style with traces of baked blueberries and a light gaminess year after year.

cooperage

100% used French oak Our Syrah features no new oak to achieve a more complex, sophisticated wine with a tannin structure that let the vineyard shine through and elegant fruit that highlights the subtle nuances and characteristics of Syrah.

helix wines – more to explore

Helix Wines are the culmination of a long, storied family history in the Washington and Oregon wine and agriculture industries and a reflection of our family's belief that farming and winemaking is all about discovery. Helix wines are produced by the same family who create REININGER at our Walla Walla Valley winery. Named for a farmstead in Helix, Oregon, where our grandparents met, married, and farmed, Helix is truly a reflection of our family's pioneering background and strong sense of place. Since the first Helix vintage in 2002, our goal is to explore the diverse and unbounded Columbia Valley and to see for ourselves what the Columbia Valley vineyards are capable of producing.