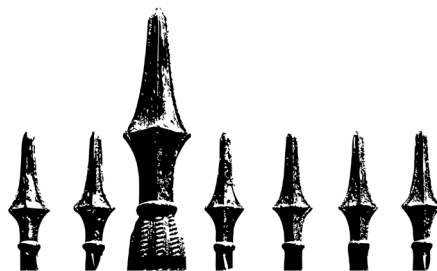


GRAMERCY CELLARS



2017 "JOHN LEWIS" SYRAH

WALLA WALLA VALLEY



BLEND: 97% SYRAH, 3% VIOGNIER

VINEYARD: LES COLLINES

AGING: 17 MONTHS IN 10% NEW FRENCH OAK PUNCHEONS

ALCOHOL: 13.0%

WINERY RETAIL: 85

CASE PRODUCTION: 105 CASES

DRINKING WINDOW: 2021 - 2045

WINE ADVOCATE: 96+ POINTS

WINE & SPIRITS: 93 POINTS

During our blending sessions at Gramercy, John Lewis is always the first wine considered. Blending is a three-day marathon with a hundred or so lots evaluated. We always start the same way. Line up the best lots in the cellar, usually those fermented in concrete & aged in puncheons. All wines are tasted blind. Three vineyards are always at the top – Forgotten Hills, Red Willow, & Les Collines, usually Block 46. In 2017 we kept to the traditional form and exclusively used Les Collines Vineyard. Even so, the 2017 is a surprise as Block 36 stood above the rest. Block 46 provides a supporting role. Usually, we see an exact opposite blend.

We fermented the wine 100% whole cluster in a Nomblot concrete tank for 17- 25 days with native yeasts. The second surprise, and a first for John Lewis, is that we co-fermented the Syrah with a bit of Viognier, modeling a traditional technique of Cote Rotie. The resultant blend is 97% Syrah and 3% Viognier. The wine was aged primarily in 10% new 500-liter puncheons. The wine, never racked, was aged for 17 months. Bottled unfinned & unfiltered.

The 2017 vintage again afforded us the ability to pick earlier than usual. The Syrah was ripe at very low Brix levels. We saw an opportunity to make a wine that confidently tips its hat to Old World Syrah. The John Lewis Syrah is a wine of freshness and balance - a wine to ponder and consider. It doesn't hit you over the head with power. The John Lewis Syrah is always only available in small quantities. In 2017, however, the quantities of John Lewis Syrah are particularly sparse.

"An impressive success, the 2017 Syrah John Lewis begins as a subtle tsunami of flavors, starting with a delicate stemmy note, compounded by black pepper essence, spiced cherry and plum compote before wafting with aromas of dusty black raspberries with sprinkles of cinnamon and baking spices. Medium-bodied, the wine explodes in a kaleidoscope of red-fruited flavors with a spicy, mineral tension that somehow seems to compact itself before gaining in intensity and complexity across the mid-palate. Flavors of black pepper and raspberry crème brûlée in waves of elegance on the long, lingering finish. An amazing example of Les Collines Vineyard Syrah, battle-tested to be a juggernaut that continues to deliver pleasure to the palate for more than a minute. I am smitten with this amazing juice!" - Anthony Mueller, Wine Advocate. 96 Points

TASTING NOTES: SUPER AROMATIC AND FLORAL, RED FRUIT, PROVENCE HERB, ORANGE RIND, ASIAN SPICE, VIOLET AND LAVENDER. MEATS/PEPPER/BBQ/SAUSAGE. MORE MEATY THAN PAST VINTAGES AT THIS STAGE. LESS PRIMARY FRUIT AND ALMOST FINISHES SOUR. ONE OF MY FAVORITES OF THE YOUNG JOHN LEWIS. STRUCTURE IS IN BALANCE WITH MEDIUM+ ACID AND MEDIUM/MEDIUM+ TANNIN.

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