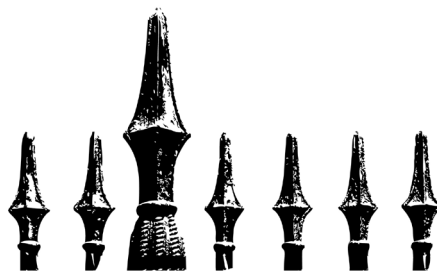


# GRAMERCY CELLARS



## 2018 "L'IDIOT DU VILLAGE" MOURVÈDRE COLUMBIA VALLEY



**BLEND:** 95% MOURVÈDRE, 5% SYRAH

**VINEYARDS:** OLSEN, ALDER RIDGE

**AGING:** 18 MONTHS IN NEUTRAL FRENCH OAK PUNCHEONS, BARRELS & FONDRE

**ALCOHOL:** 14.0%

**WINERY RETAIL:** 44

**CASE PRODUCTION:** 446 CASES

**DRINKING WINDOW:** 2021 - 2036

**WINE ENTHUSIAST:** 93 POINTS, *EDITORS CHOICE*

**OWEN BARGREEN:** 93 POINTS

We think about Mourvèdre more and more each year and its place in Washington. Mourvèdre is a fantastic grape. What blows us away is its ability to retain red fruit characteristics. Most red varieties in hot areas will quickly turn to black fruit characteristics. While that can be okay, combined with the intense earthiness and funk, it would soon become tiring to drink. However, if one plants Mourvèdre in a blistering climate, it still stays red fruit and retains its freshness. It is a ripe, rich wine that somehow still manages to be a summer wine. We frequently break out a Bandol or L'Idiot, even on the hottest Washington days.

A couple of years ago, I hosted a Zoom tasting on the wines of Bandol. We tasted a number of the outstanding properties of Bandol: Pibarnon, Tempier, Pradeaux, etc. We also tasted our Mourvèdre. I was ecstatic that it's playing in the same league as the Bandol heavy hitters. It's a wine that improves with a bit of age. I mapped my favorite wineries in the region on Google Earth. In addition, I placed many of Gramercy's Rhône vineyards for Mourvèdre, Grenache, and Syrah on the map as well. A link to the project is here: <http://ow.ly/Ms2130r6qMX>

We continue to be astounded by the complexity and intensity of the Mourvèdre from both Olsen and Alder Ridge Vineyards. Each vineyard contributes something different. We always say Olsen is all about freshness and aromatics. Alder Ridge brings depth and structure. In 2018, the wine is 50% Alder Ridge and 50% Olsen Vineyard, a dance of elegance and power. We added 5% Syrah, which provides a bit of lift aromatically, freshening the wine. The 2018 Mourvèdre will mark our last vintage with Alder Ridge Vineyard, as successive wines will be entirely from Olsen Vineyard.

The 2018 Mourvèdre was fermented 50% whole cluster with native yeasts. It was then aged in neutral ten hL Stockinger foudre (huge vessel), 500-liter puncheon (large vessel), and 225-liter barrels (normal size vessel) for 18 months.

**TASTING NOTES:** THE FRESH BERRY FRUIT SEEMINGLY GROWS IN THE MOUTH INTO A CRESCENDO OF CHUTNEY AND SPICE. DRIED AND FRESH RASPBERRIES ARE BALANCED WITH GREEN CARDAMON NOTES. MAKES YOU WANT TO SLOW COOK A POT ROAST JUST FOR THE SMELL OF IT. THE FINISH GOES ON, AND ON. AN INCREDIBLE EXAMPLE OF NEW WORLD MOURVÈDRE.



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