

Mark Ryan Winery

Dead Horse

2008

The 2008 Vintage

We love the 2008 vintage for its rich aromatic complexity, approachability, and the intensity and purity of the fruit on the palate. The growing season was cooler than usual, delaying véraison by a few weeks, but meticulous care in the vineyards kept the vines in balance and set the stage for an excellent vintage. With the arrival of picture-perfect weather conditions in September and October, marked by warm days and cool nights, the grapes ripened beautifully. The resulting wines are luscious, offering bold flavors and balanced acidity.

Winemakers Notes

Inspired by the great left-bank blends of Bordeaux, Dead Horse is a Cabernet Sauvignon-driven wine supported by Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Malbec. The 2008 Dead Horse is a testament to a beautiful vintage and the incredible work done in vineyards. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot show the power of this vintage, while the Merlot and Cabernet France lend balance and refinement. Each lot was fermented separately in 1.5-ton fermenters from between 12 and 18 days. Then the wines were gently pressed to barrel where malolactic fermentation was completed. The wine was racked only twice prior to bottling and is unfinned and unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of blackberry, violet, and raspberry combine with layers of tealeaf, tobacco, bramble, mint, cracked black pepper and clove. The palate is rich and supple with elements of cocoa and vanilla bean. The texture is refined with elegant tannins.

HARVEST DATES: September 14th, 2008 - October 11th, 2008
VARIETAL COMPOSITION: 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc,
12% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot & 2% Malbec
VINEYARD SOURCES: Ciel du Cheval & Klipsun Vineyards
APPELLATION: Red Mountain
OAK COMPOSITION: 92% New French Oak
BARREL PRODUCERS: Taransaud, Ermitage, Saury, Le Grand, Sylvain, DJ
BARREL AGING: 20 months
CHEMISTRY: Alc. 14.9%, pH 3.72, TA 0.60 g/100ml
BOTTLING DATE: June 18th, 2010
RELEASE DATE: October 22nd, 2010

Mark Ryan Winery

Founded in 1999 by Mark Ryan McNeilly, Mark Ryan Winery is a small winery located in Woodinville, Washington. Our goal is to produce handcrafted, blended wines that represent the vineyard from which they come, varietal character and our style. From the vineyards to the winery, our uncompromising commitment to quality, and our passion to produce the best wines possible inspire us to make these wines for you.

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