

Charles Smith Wines: The Modernist Project & K Vintners

Capturing and putting into bottle the pure essence of syrah.

History

Located at the base of the Blue Mountains in Walla Walla, Washington, K Vintners opened its doors to the public in December 2001 on property homesteaded in 1853 with the adjacent farmhouse built in 1872. K Vintners' first release was 330 cases of 1999 K Syrah Walla Walla Valley. K Vintners produces small lots of single vineyard syrahs and field blends that are hand-picked, foot-stomped, fermented with naturally occurring yeasts and basket pressed.

After the devastating freeze in 2004, the Magnificent Wine Company was developed as a source of "wine for the people" resulting in the phenomenally successful House Wine. In the fall of 2006, a majority of the MWC was sold to Washington State-based Precept Brands although Charles is still involved in the winemaking and branding.

The first Charles Smith Wines were released in the spring of 2007. Charles Smith Wines: the Modernist Project focuses on the way people generally consume wine today, *immediately!* Wine in this category is typically either simple, or a wine that would be much better a few years down the road. Charles Smith Wines are wines that are about putting as much into the bottle as possible. The intent is to create wines to be enjoyed now, but with typicity of variety (i.e., merlot that tastes like merlot) and to the vineyard (wine that tastes like where it was grown). The wines are full of flavor, balanced, and true to place of origin.

Vineyards

For Charles Smith Wines the fruit is sourced from some of Washington State's finest vineyards. Greatest attention is paid to those growers that practice sustainable farming methods. K Vintners produces wines from two distinctive viticulture areas, Wahluke Slope and Walla Walla Valley.

Winemaker

Owner-winemaker Charles Smith with his big hair, kick ass attitude and bold packaging has earned the moniker "rock star" of Washington State Syrah. Charles Smith arrived in the Walla Walla Valley following 11 years in Scandinavia managing rock bands. Originally from northern California, he has been involved with wine personally and professionally his entire life. In 2009 Food & Wine Magazine recognized Charles as "Winemaker of the Year" and in 2010 Seattle Magazine honored him with "Winemaker of the Year."

Wines

Charles Smith Wines offers Riesling, Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah, and Cabernet Sauvignon. In 2009 the Kung Fu Girl Riesling was recognized by Wine Enthusiast magazine as "Top 100 Best Buys" and the 2006 Royal City Syrah as (number two) "Top 100 Wines of 2009." K Vintners is focused on single vineyard Syrahs, field blends of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as Grenache and Viognier. In 2010 Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate rated 15 wines with scores between 91 and 99 points.

Contact

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