



**2007 Royal City Syrah — Columbia Valley  
100% Stoneridge Vineyard, Royal Slope**

**Tasting Notes:**

**Score 99, Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate** (September 2010)

*"Made with 100% whole clusters. An inky purple/black in color, it deals out aromas of mineral, truffle, espresso, licorice, lavender, incense, and blueberry. Super complex, suave and debonair on the palate, this is a lengthy, concentrated, impeccably balanced, complete Syrah that will benefit from a decade of cellaring but is almost too addictive to resist now. Those with will power who are able to delay gratification will be well rewarded for cellaring this beauty for a decade or more." —Jay Miller*

**Technical Information**

**Vineyards:** 100% Stoneridge Vineyard is located northeast of the Wahluke Slope AVA, across the Saddle Mountains, near Royal City. It is also the fruit source for Heart, Skull, and Old Bones. The 2007 Royal City Syrah is a blend of fruit primarily from the southern section of the vineyard. Very rocky soils—in fact 6 different kinds—make up the complex profile of aptly named Stoneridge. A windy site, it naturally controls vigor and reduces yields, only 1.7 tons per acre. The fruit is thick skinned and produces nearly black juice and robust yet supple tannins, adding to the aging potential of the wine.

**Elevage:** Fruit was picked at the end of October. Hand picked, foot crushed, native yeasts, small batch open top fermenters, hand punch downs, basket pressed, spontaneous malolactic fermentation and absolutely no filtering. The 'Old Bones' portion of this wine was aged in 100% new puncheons. The 'Skull' portion was aged in 25% new oak. Only French oak was used, from coopers Sirugue, Ramone, and Ermitage. After the blend was made, the total use of new oak constituted 30%. Barrel aged for 26 months before bottling in January 2010.

**Total Production:** 100 cases

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