

2011 Loess Vineyard Syrah

Walla Walla Valley AVA | 275 Cases Produced

\$50 Winery Retail

Vineyards

100% Loess Vineyard, Leonetti Estate Syrah. Planted in 2001 and named after the vineyard's main soil structure. The Figgins family focuses on low intervention and low irrigation for this spot. They brew their own compost tea and have planted biodiverse indigenous plants to attract the proper bugs. The vineyard is both Vinea and Salmon Safe certified. The site is 23 acres at the foothills of the Blue Mountains on a steep south facing slope allowing for longer late afternoon sun exposure. Classic Rhone- savory, gamey, meaty notes from here. Nights are cooler, including later in the season, leading to bracing acidity and long ageing potential.

Winemaking

Due to a hard core frost in November 2010, yields were very low for 2011. Practices used on the Loess Vineyard by the Figgins family, who are well acquainted with the region, it was one of the few vineyards that was not negatively affected by that frost. Very little single vineyard anything came out of the 2011 vintage because of this. We are pleased to be amongst the few. Due to lower yields, the ripening on the vine was concentrated to fewer clusters. The maturity level this year off of this vineyard added a new level of nuance, adding depth to the wine. We co-fermented with Viognier from the Loess for color enhancement as we have in the past.

Tasting Notes

96% Syrah, 4% Viognier. Aromas of cocoa-dusted chocolate truffle, Bing cherry and blackberry cobbler draw you in while notes of leather, hickory and violets provide intellectual satisfaction. Velvety black fruit coats the tongue with opulent freshness, backed up by melted chocolate. Fine tannins provide weight while balancing the chocolate and plum through the lengthy finish.