



## **2012 Old Stones Estate Syrah**

**Walla Walla Valley AVA | 225 Cases Produced**

### **Vineyard**

A 13.5 acre property, Old Stones is one of the oldest vineyards planted “On the Rocks” in Milton Freewater. Originally acquired as an apple and plum orchard, Old Stones is located along an ancient river bed covered with massive basalt cobblestones, similar to the profile of vineyards found in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape region of Southern France. These cobblestones go very deep into the soil and retain heat during the day to then radiate that heat back to the vines during the cooler evening hours. This rocky section of the AVA is producing some of the most distinct and sought after wines in the Walla Walla Valley, especially for Syrah and Cabernet Franc. Given the depth and complexity of this fruit, and its distinct aromatics and flavors, this Syrah is certainly destined for a single vineyard bottling in the future.

### **Winemaking**

Old Stones is a 100% Syrah from “The Rocks” region of the Walla Walla appellation (soon to be designated as its own AVA called ‘The Rocks of Milton Freewater’). It is planted on a dried up riverbed consisting of rock cobble in the southern and warmer part of the appellation. Old Stones is distinctive Syrah, reminiscent of the Northern Rhone. We managed yield to leave a bit more fruit per plant so we could retain natural acid, which tends to wane early in ‘The Rocks.’ The wine was aged only in large format “puncheons” and “hogs,” giving this wine a rich and round mouthfeel. This one will cellar as long as you can stand it.

### **Tasting Notes**

100% Syrah. Old Stones is a distinctive syrah, reminiscent of the Northern Rhone. Meat, bacon and cigars, sandalwood, cumin, turmeric. Nuanced mouthfeel for the brooding nose. Saddle seat and raspberry jam. Garden soil and strawberries. Great accompaniment for food. This wine will be the stuff of memories.