

Brittan Vineyards

2011 SYRAH

Robert Brittan developed a love for Rhone varietals during his tenure at Stags' Leap Winery in Napa, where he served as General Manager and Winemaker for sixteen years. In 2004, Robert decided to leave Stags' Leap and start a vineyard project in the cool climate of the North Willamette Valley. With that came the passion to grow Syrah reminiscent of the Northern Rhone.

VINEYARD NOTES

The Brittan Vineyard lies just 12 miles southwest of McMinnville, tucked into the foothills of the Coastal Range. The original 18 acres were planted in 2001, but due to the challenging nature of this site and limited topsoil, only eight acres survived. Since 2004 when Robert and Ellen purchased the vineyard, it has been an ongoing rehabilitation project: replanting, retraining, and learning the unique landscape that has become Brittan Vineyard. This includes the replanting the Pinot Meunier on site to Syrah in 2005. There is now an acre and a half of Syrah on site.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2011 vintage was the latest in Oregon history with fruit starting to come into the winery mid-October. It was fortunate that the late autumnal rains held off, resulting in fruit that ripened slowly and had beautiful hang time. The Syrah came in from the Brittan Vineyard the second week in November.

TASTING NOTES

With enticing notes of red currant and Italian plum, the 2011 Syrah has a nose with rich, black licorice, sweet fennel and deep notes of rich tobacco. With an elegant palate of cassis, wet stone and raspberry, the cool vintage lends an acidity coupled with fine tannin structure that primes this wine for cellaring beyond 15 years.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 102 cases

ELEVAGE: 16 months, 35% new French oak

DATE BOTTLED: April 2013

ALCOHOL: 12.5%

SRP: \$40/750 mL

