

Brittan Vineyards

2012 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 replanting the Pinot Meunier blocks to Syrah in 2005. There is now an acre and a half of Syrah on site.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2012 vintage has been heralded as an ideal growing year: moderately warm with no rain in the summer or fall. Although the cooler weather during fruit set resulted in lower yields (in fact less than one ton of Syrah from our 1.5 acres) these loose clusters were aided by a season with a long, even hang time; the fruit for the 2012 Syrah was harvested at the end of October.

TASTING NOTES

The 2012 Syrah is a lush, royal garnet in color with a nose of dried lilac, cedar and black peppercorn over deep notes of black cherry and candied plum. A steady ribbon of red fruit on palate leads to a seamless rich texture, while leather and fresh tobacco weave their way through the lengthy finish.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 52 cases

ELEVAGE: 16 months, 35% new French oak

DATE BOTTLED: April 2014

ALCOHOL: 13%

SRP: \$40/750 mL

