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## **2009 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah Walla Walla Valley**

### Winemaker's Notes:

Aromas of dusty, ripe mixed berries and violets mingle with scents of grilled meats. Hints of smoked game, sage and mild green olives top off plush flavors of blueberries, blackberries and raspberries. This wine has notes of sea salt and citrus in its long, lingering finish. A powerful mouthfeel is cradled by gentle tannins. This wine's aromas and flavors are intricately layered and complex, capturing the essence of this estate vineyard. (Note: Les Collines is pronounced "lay co lean.")

### The 2009 Vintage:

The 2009 vintage is the result of a roller coaster growing season. Mother Nature could not make up her mind! A wet, cooler spring gave way to early, hot summer days in May, leading to a late bud break. Then it cooled off once again — and then proceeded to warm up again. All of this weather change made for an exciting harvest of smaller berries with amazing, concentrated fruit and polished tannins. Incredible dark garnet color, great fruit intensity and subtle minerality make our 2009 vintage exceptionally structured, perfectly balanced and a joy to drink.

### Fermentation:

The grapes were carefully hand-harvested, sorted and individually fermented in small stainless steel tanks. The wine aged 16 months in 100% French oak.

### Wine Specifics:

Varietal(s): 100% Syrah

Vineyard(s): 100% Les Collines Vineyard

Appellation: Walla Walla Valley

Oak Program: 100% French oak; 15% new oak, 85% used oak

Harvest Dates: September 30 - October 10, 2009

Finished Alcohol: 14.1% by volume

Total Production: 321 cases (12/750 ml)

Bottling Date: February 1, 2011

Release Date: October 15, 2011

— *Jean-François Pellet, Winemaker*



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