



3796 Peppers Bridge Road, Walla Walla, WA 99362 Ph 509.525.3541 Fx 509.522.5011 www.amavicellars.com

2010 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah Walla Walla Valley

Winemaker's Notes:

This wine is a profound expression of the terroir of Les Collines Vineyard, intriguing for its harmony and complexity. Aromas of blueberries, blackberries and clove overlay hints of dusty violets and grilled meat. Hints of white pepper, sea salt, sage, and olive mingle with ripe mixed berries. A powerful yet smooth mouthfeel leads to a lengthy finish.

(Note: Les Collines is pronounced "lay co lean.")

The 2010 Vintage:

Bud break started more than two weeks early at the beginning of April. Then the weather cooled down significantly, and we were two weeks behind typical growing patterns by mid-June. Due to the poor weather during bloom, our berry counts per cluster were reduced significantly, which meant a very small crop. Whereas we usually target anywhere from 2.5 to 3 tons per acre, we ended up anywhere from 1.25 to 2 tons per acre. This was somehow a blessing. Despite the cool summer (only two days above 100 degrees), we were able to ripen each block perfectly. Wines from the 2010 vintage show vibrant flavors, bright acidity and exceptional balance

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; 86% used oak, 14% new oak

Harvest Dates: October 14 - October 28, 2010

Finished Alcohol: 14.5% by volume

Total Production: 355 cases (12/750 ml)

Bottling Date(s): February 16, 2012

Release Date: November 2, 2012

— *Jean-François Pellet, Winemaker*



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