



**2015 Sequel Syrah**  
Columbia Valley  
John Duval, Winemaker

After 16 years as winemaker for Australia's iconic Penfolds Grange, John Duval came to the Columbia Valley in 2003 as the sequel to his life's work with Syrah.

**Tasting Notes:** Deeply concentrated with vibrant aromas and flavors of dark cherries, wild blackberries, smoked meats and spicy oak. A rich layer of silky tannins coat the palate without overshadowing the wine's bright and lively character.

**Vintage:** Following a warmer than average winter, spring arrived early in the Columbia Valley. Summer was hot and dry, with temperatures cooling at just the right time to keep tannins in check. In September, conditions returned to a more typical Columbia Valley weather pattern marked by warm days and cool nights that beautifully ripened the vintage's small, thick-skinned berries. The resulting wines are both powerful and elegant.

**Winemaking:** Hand-harvested grapes underwent a variety of gentle fermentation techniques to produce a wide spectrum of flavors without imparting bitter tannins. A portion of the lots underwent an Australian technique known as "rack and return" that requires draining the tank twice daily and gently putting the juice back over the top of the skins to extract deep color and optimal richness. Whole cluster fermentation was also used to enhance richness and dimension on the palate. A few lots were fermented with a submerged cap for structure and mouthfeel. Aged 18 months in all French oak, 65% new.

**Vineyards:** 2015 was a very warm vintage, so winemaker John Duval crafted half this blend from the Yakima Valley, one of Washington's cooler AVAs, relying on Boushey (32%) and Den Hoed (18%) vineyards to give the wine its bright, lively character and refined elegance. Bacchus Vineyard Syrah, grown on a south-facing block planted in 1993, adds dark color and richness. A Shiraz clone from Sonnet Vineyard at the Benches, along with a small amount of Candy Mountain Vineyard Syrah, contributes power and concentration. Dionysus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon gives the wine its backbone.

**Alcohol:** 14.9%

**pH:** 3.73

**TA:** 0.56 grams /100ml

**Blend:** 93% Syrah; 7% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Production:** 1,826 cases