

OWEN ROE

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2008 SYRAH EX UMBRIS



'Ex Umbri' is Latin for 'out of the shadows'. Originally made as a one-off due to a wildfire that resulted in tremendously smoky grapes, this wine has become a NW signature Syrah. The current vintage is a blend of fruit from Mike Sauer's Red Willow Vineyard, Art DenHoed's Erickson Road Vineyard, and Bruce Morford's Slide Mountain Vineyard, each located in western Yakima Valley. The blend is balanced by fruit from the cooler, smoky Lewis Vineyard in The Dalles, and the unctuous fruitiness of Elerding Vineyard located in Alderdale, WA.

TASTING NOTES Deep plum and dark cherry perfume precedes the velvety texture with bushels of blackberry, peppercorn and black licorice playing against plush tannins. Drink now through 2015.

VINTAGE 2008 in the Columbia Valley was a bit of a suspense show. The growing season began with a cooler Spring which continued into September but then delightfully warm weather arrived in October and it all came together resulting in an excellent year for every varietal. The Summer and Fall were marked by a noticeable lack of rain which contributed to produce especially concentrated flavors in the fruit.

WINEMAKING The fruit for this wine was hand harvested. It was chilled and then after destemming, it was fermented with manual punch downs twice daily. The wine was racked once after malolactic fermentation and then aged in French Oak barrels.

BARREL REGIME 6 months 17% new French oak

VINEYARDS/AVA COLUMBIA VALLEY

The fruit for our Ex Umbri Syrah is from a variety of vineyards in the Columbia Valley AVA. Here the basalt soils, long days of sunshine and cool evenings yield ripe gorgeous fruit with typically high acidity and low pH.

