

SUSTAINABLY FARMED, VINEYARD DRIVEN, 7x 90PT SCORES

CHARLES & CHARLES ROSÉ

2021 Columbia Valley, Washington



THE VINTAGE

I'm thrilled to report that after quite a string of challenging vintages, 2021 in Washington State was near perfection. A mild spring lead in to a typical hot and dry mid-summer and cool, drawn out fall allowing for the extended hang time that we love. There were a few moments of precipitation during the harvest period that kept us on our toes and the berry sizes were unusually small resulting in small yields, but across the board, the quality of fruit that came in was excellent.

All of our fruit is grown above 1,100 feet, which may not sound that high, but in Washington only 10% of the total vineyards planted are above that level. The elevation ensures gentle ripening, which allows complex flavor development and natural acidity without much alcohol. The style of our Rosé is driven by these very specific Rosé vineyards, which none of our USA Rosé competitors can claim. Since 2008, we've been working hard to build a network of these cool, high elevation vineyards that were born to make the kind of Rosé we do.

THE WINE

To ensure minimal color or tannin pick up from the moment the fruit is harvested until it arrives at the winery, we now pick exclusively at night. Once in the winery, we treat each tank a little differently to ensure each has its own unique perspective so that when it's blended, we have the most complex and multi layered Rosé we can. While we use a mix of different yeasts, we have been loving the depth and character that native fermentations are giving so over half are now native. The resulting wine this vintage has both cut and generosity, lift and energy, and we are loving it! As always, the balance between the acidity at the finish and the savory, citrus and tangy cherry are the dominant features. Syrah always gives a violet quality to the pink which is still the case, but with the higher relative percentage of Mourvèdre and Grenache there's a bit more salmon and coral pink. The final alcohol is 12.5%. The aromatics lead with notes of bright citrus, wild raspberry and cherry, rose petal and lavender. All this carries through on a broad mid-palate and finally a tangy bright finish.

Syrah (44%), Grenache (25%), Mourvedre (24%), Cabernet Sauvignon (7%).
pH - 3.25, TA 7.1, RS - 2g/L, Alc - 12.5%.

THE TERROIR

We have an amazing group of growers with exceptionally tended to vineyards that spread all across the Columbia Valley, from the sandy basins to the higher elevation slopes with ancient soils. The qualities we look for to make exciting Rosé are quite distinct and thus there is not one vineyard whose fruit overlaps with our red wine programs.

THE BUZZ: CHARLES & CHARLES ROSÉ

James Suckling **90 pts (2020)**
Vinous **89 pts (2020)**
Wine Enthusiast **89 pts (2019)**
Vinous **89 pts (2019)**
Wine Enthusiast **90 pts BEST BUY (2018)**
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Wine Enthusiast **89 pts BEST BUY (2015)**
Wine Spectator **89 pts & 2015 TOP 100 VALUE (2014)**
Wine Enthusiast **90 pts BEST VALUE (2013)**
Wine Spectator **88 pts BEST VALUE (2012)**
Wine Spectator **90 pts BEST VALUE & 2012 TOP 100 # 42 (2011)**
Wine Spectator **90 pts (2008)**

THE PROJECT

A collaboration founded in 2008 between Wine Enthusiast Magazine 2014 Winemaker of the year, Charles Smith (K Vintners, Charles Smith Wines) and Charles Bieler (Three Thieves, Bieler Père et Fils, & Gotham Project). We make just five wines together: the Rosé, a Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah Blend, a Merlot, a Chardonnay, and a single vineyard Riesling.

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