

BETZ

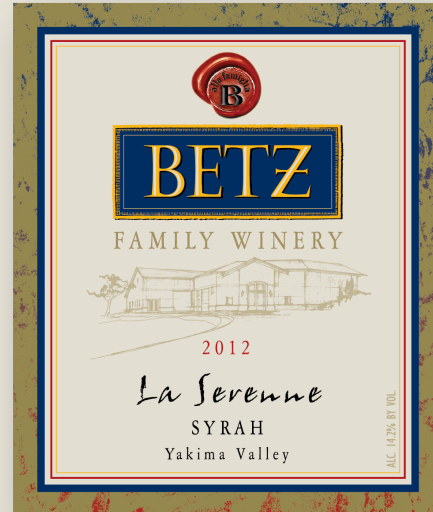
FAMILY WINERY

2012 *La Serenne*, Syrah

The 2012 Vintage---Finally

After two years of challenging harvests, the Columbia Valley was finally blessed with an easy one. Not only easy, but also stunning. Yes, we love the 2010s and 2011s, but getting to the end result was challenging because of cooler-than-normal growing season temperatures, but 2012 was brilliant right from the start. A moderate spring and gently building summer heat to a hot August ensured above average heat accumulation for the year. This was followed by a long gentle autumn creating predictable and satisfying results. The wines are generous, pure and expressive, reminding me of the fleshiness of the 1998s and the clarity of the 2007s. These 2012 Rhone-inspired wines are among the best yet from our cellar.

Syrah La Serenne's character in 2012 reinforces the loose axiom: cooler sites produce their finest wines in warm vintages; think of Mosel Rieslings or Cote Rotie Syrahs, both cooler than other nearby appellations, and how they shine in warm vintages. So too with the higher altitude, cooler-temperature Boushey Vineyard, for 13 vintages the sole source for La Serenne. The vineyard made great use of the warm late July and August, yielding small berries with thick skins, providing extraordinary density and richness. Supple and fleshy are hallmarks of this vineyard in any vintage, but in 2012 pack on more textural breadth, and add more of Syrah's wildness, a meaty, spicy, earthy nuance. It's inky black, with dark plums, creamy black fruits, generous smoke and anise, and yet it still retains its cool site vitality. Don't be deceived by its supple tannins and juicy approachability: this is one that will live a long life in the cellar.



- 100% Syrah from the Boushey Vineyard, mid Yakima Valley
- 50% New French Oak, 50% Once-filled French Oak
- Serve cool, 60-62°F.

CURRENT RATINGS:

Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate* - 96

As for the Syrah-driven wines, they do two main cuvees, one focusing on Boushey Vineyard, the La Serenne, and the other on Red Mountain, the La Cote Rousse. The 2012 Syrah La Serenne is a 100% Syrah that was aged in 50% new French oak prior to bottling. I think the greatest vintage of this cuvee to date, it boasts an incredibly inky purple color to go with notions of crème de cassis, damp earth, graphite, smoke and licorice that flow to a full-bodied, voluptuously textured profile on the palate. Despite all of the richness, it stays thrillingly focused and shows the purity and elegance of the site. Enjoy it anytime over the coming 10-15 years

