



2008 Picpoul
Boushey Vineyard
Yakima Valley

Composition:	100% Picpoul
Vineyard:	Boushey Lower County Line Road
Harvest dates:	October 22 & 27, 2008
Alcohol:	14.1%
pH:	3.07
Titrateable Acid:	9.0 gm/litre
Bottling:	May 15, 2009 72 cases

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Only the third Picpoul vintage in Washington, this year we were able to spare three barrels for the State's first varietal bottling. With a mere $\frac{3}{4}$ ths acre in production in the Northwest, this is truly a McCrea exclusive. Our vines are Beaucastel heritage, via Tablas Creek. Picpoul is one of the lesser-known Rhône varietals, and in its native France exhibits lean and green traits. The New World versions are fresh and crisp, but more aromatic, rounded and *spicy*. Picpoul roughly translates as "lip stinger," a name it surely lives up to. Its wonderful acidity and lemony flavor are a perfect match for shellfish or Asian cuisines. It has an exceptionally long finish.

The vintage of 2008 will be remembered for its unusually cool summer and fall temperatures, but ultimately, for very classy wines. An exceptionally long, cool and rainy spring delayed bud break for at least two weeks. Once into July, a very cool summer presaged a late year, with slower and somewhat delayed veraison. As harvest approached, ripeness and overall flavor development lagged. Sugars barely reached 24° Brix – uncommonly low. Picking was late and somewhat compressed in time; finding space for fermenting about 80% simultaneously was a challenge.

In the end we survived what was one of the most difficult vintages in twenty years! Generally medium-bodied with a transparent complexity, the whites are some of the finest ever and the reds will possess a rare "beauty" and elegant style. They should age gracefully.

Washington's Rhône varietal pioneer, Doug McCrea transforms grapes from the finest Yakima Valley and Red Mountain vineyards into wines of extraordinary depth, balance, complexity and finesse. Annual Production: 3500 cases of Syrah, Vioignier, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Picpoul, Cinsault, Marsanne and Counoise.

Washington State's Premier Rhône Varietal Winery

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