

2016 DELMAS SYRAH

SJR VINEYARD – \$105

Wine Enthusiast Top 100 Wines of 2018 - Cellar Selection, 94 points

50% new oak, 500L puncheons were used for the first time with this vintage. “SJR vineyard fruit integrates oak really well”, states Brook Robertson. Vinification saw 40-50% whole cluster co-fermented Syrah and Viognier in an open top fermenter “layer cake.”

This wine beautifully encapsulates the Delmas style: profound aromatics, supple texture, and superb length. Nose of huckleberry, white pepper, crushed rocks, exotic tea, and smoked game. The palate shows a muscular expression of blueberry, raspberry, roasted herbs, truffle, white pepper, and bacon fat. The finish closes with elegant notes of dark chocolate, baking spices, and cedar.

91.6% Syrah, 8.4% Viognier from SJR Vineyard.
14.5% abv
Salmon Safe



2016 DEVIUM RED

FRENCH CREEK VINEYARD – \$34

The three varietals used in this wine were picked together and 100% whole cluster co-fermented. Minimal intervention to a ‘T’: foot-stomped, native yeast, no new oak, no filtration and minimal sulfur usage. A truly lovely and unusual bottling for Walla Walla!

The French Creek Vineyard Red is red fruit driven with delightful floral aromatics. Peppered meat and herbal notes on the palate give way to bright fruit and subtly structured tannins.

76% Mourvèdre, 21% Syrah, 3% Grenache Blanc from French Creek Vineyard.
13.1% abv
Sustainably farmed



2016 DEVIUM MARSANNE

ELEVATION VINEYARD – \$34

Sadly, this was the first and last vintage of this capricious white. The vines were removed soon after in favor of Syrah vines - thus, let us enjoy it while we can! The North Fork site of the Walla Walla Valley AVA, where Elevation Vineyard is located, is “the most exciting new vineyard in the Walla Walla Valley” according to Keith. Planted in 2014 on pure basalt and on a 45 degree slope, everything about working with this vineyard proves difficult, but the hard work pays off. The fruit is beautiful. The Marsanne was destemmed and spent 8 hours on the skins before being pressed off and put in barrel (all neutral French oak) for 22 months.

Beautiful golden in color, the nose open with yellow flowers, tropical fruit, beeswax, and faint marshmallow cream. On the palate one finds notes of herbal minerality with creamy vanilla, key lime and stone fruit. Medium bodied, pensive wine that firmly rests on the palate and gives the impression it’s hiding something. Give this one some time in the cellar and you won’t be sorry.

100% Marsanne from Elevation Vineyard.
12% abv
Sustainably farmed



Delmas Syrah 2016 SJR Vineyard The Rocks of Milton-Freewater AVA	91.6% Syrah 8.4% Viognier	Alluvial fan of basalt cobblestone (volcanic) Planted in 2007 Cases made: 230	Serve at 60° Decant 2-3 hours in advance Syrah Glass	Bottled without fining or filtration. Blue and red fruit, roasted herbs, bacon fat, and truffles.	Drink 2021 to 2031+
Devium Red 2016 French Creek Vineyard Yakima Valley AVA (Columbia Valley)	76% Mourvèdre 21% Syrah 3% Grenache Blanc	Gravel, Sand and Silt Planted in 2013 Cases made: 140	Serve at 61° Burgundy Glass	Red fruit driven with delightful floral aromatics. Peppered meat and herbal notes on the palate give way to bright fruit and subtle tannins.	Drink Now to 2026
Devium Marsanne 2016 Elevation Vineyard North Fork, Walla Walla Valley AVA	100% Marsanne	Planted in 2014 on pure basalt, and on a 45 degree slope Cases made: 60	Serve at 61° Burgundy Glass	Bottled without fining or filtration. No sulfur. Yellow flowers, beeswax, tropical fruit, and marshmallow cream.	Drink Now to 2028

Delmas Producer Profile



Family owned and operated, Delmas is the realization of the Steve & Mary Robertson's dream, 35+ years strong, to honor a distinctive place, a distinctive taste. Born of unique geology found within The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater, as well as the climatic eccentricities of the Walla Walla Valley, Delmas is dedicated to producing exceptional wines of enduring

value. Elegance is preferred to power and exoticism at Delmas; restraint, nuance, and those impossible-to-define, (pleasurable), qualities that elevate all great wines. Brooke Robertson accentuates the importance of the SJR Vineyard to her family's vision: "The most important part of what we do is the family factor and our estate vineyard."

Devium Producer Profile

Keith Johnson doesn't like points given to wines and avoids it whenever possible. He's confident in his wines' pedigree and he should be – they're deeply thoughtful and personal. Founded in 2015, Devium is his wild brain-child, devoted to creating something unique in the Walla Walla Valley, a commitment to minimalist winemaking, early picking and special vineyards. He doesn't do blending trials for these wines either, believing that his wines should speak to "a moment in time and a specific terroir" that blending might obscure. It is about tradition and history, spontaneous fermentations and foot stomping. Keith Johnson is a purist and expresses his devotion to his craft with the utmost care in the production of these beautiful wines.



WALLA WALLA CURATOR CLUB

THE RHÔNE AND THE ROCKS

**"WALLA WALLA IS THE WILD WEST
OF WINEMAKING. THERE IS NO LIMIT
TO WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH EXCEPT
FOR OUR OWN IMAGINATION AND AMBITION."
– KEITH JOHNSON**

MAY 2019

THE RHÔNE AND THE ROCKS

In this inaugural shipment of the Curator Club, we have chosen to feature two exceptionally dedicated, energetic producers with tons of promise on the horizon: Delmas and Devium.

The wines of Delmas first came to my attention 8 years ago. Steve and Mary Robertson founded SJR Vineyard in 2007 on 10 acres "in the rocks" and, subsequently, created their flagship Syrah. Steve was at the forefront of the movement to create an AVA within Walla Walla solely defined by the characteristics of its terroir, and the first of its kind to cross state boundaries. The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA was granted final TTB approval in 2015. The SJR Vineyard sits firmly on the western boundary of the AVA and Steve remains a vocal advocate for the region throughout the wine industry. Brooke Robertson, Mary and Steve's daughter, heads up viticultural operations and plans to take the helm as lead winemaker in the next five years. In the meantime, "Dad and I tag-team the winemaking protocol" according to Brooke. Billo Naravane of Rasa Vineyards has been the consulting winemaker throughout the project and remains close. On the horizon for Delmas? An estate Viognier and Grenache. We can't wait.

Devium Wines is the passion project of the exceptionally talented Keith Johnson. A graduate of the Enology Program at the WWCC in 2011 (a year before Brooke Robertson), Keith has quickly proven himself to be one of the rising stars of the Walla Walla wine industry, though he's so modest you would hardly know it. Spending time with Keith in the cellar talking about winemaking might just be one of my favorite things to do while out on a winery visit in Walla Walla. When not acting as Production Winemaker for Sleight of Hand Cellars, he devotes his time to producing his focused and inspired low-intervention wines. In fact, the reason Devium exists at all is due to pure chance of the senses. While on a visit to French Creek Vineyard for Sleight of Hand's old vine Chardonnay back in 2011, Keith was immediately impressed by the vineyard and vineyard manager, Damon Lalonde. Keith picked the French Creek Mourvèdre's first fruit in 2015, after an epiphany smelling the Syrah from the same site and the impetus to start the Devium project was created. Keith told me, "It's ultimately about the vineyard, not about me."