

BETZ

FAMILY WINERY

2011 Acclaim and Reviews



Nov/Oct 11

2009 Betz Family Besoleil Columbia Valley

Medium red. Slightly high-toned aromas of liqueur-like red berries, cherry, sage and flowers. Seamless and sweet in the mouth, with immediately accessible flavors of candied red fruits. The firm but ripe tannins will not get in the way of enjoying this wine right now. **91**

2009 Betz Family Cabernet Sauvignon Pere de Famille Columbia Valley

Bright ruby red. Cassis, crushed blackberry and violet on the nose. Intensely flavored and juicy, with terrific cut and lift to the flavors of blackberry and licorice. Boasts plenty of acidity but there's nothing hard about this cabernet. Finishes quite tight, though, with firm, peppery tannins that call for at least six or seven years of bottling aging. **93.**

2009 Betz Family Clos de Betz Red Wine Columbia Valley

Good bright red-ruby. Rather withdrawn nose hints at cassis, licorice and aromatic oak. Broad, sweet and tactile on entry, then plump and sweet in the middle, showing a distinct cocoa powder quality from its very ripe merlot component. Not quite as expressive as the syrahs, but then this was bottled more recently (April of 2011, vs. November of 2010). Finishes with very suave, fine-grained tannins. **92.**

2009 Betz Family Syrah Chapitre 3 Columbia Valley

Bright, saturated medium ruby. Aromas of blackberry, bitter chocolate, licorice and black pepper. Lush and sweet on the front half, with deep dark fruit flavors that will require time in bottle to show more complexity. Most impressive today on the expanding, firmly tannic back end, which conveys a strong impression of dry extract and comes across as less phenolic than the Cote Rousse or La Serenne. Winemaker Bob Betz notes that his criterion for this wine is energy, rather than sheer volume. **93.**

2009 Betz Family Syrah La Cote Patriarche Yakima Valley

Bright red-ruby. Wild, musky aromas of strawberry, flint, roasted meat, bacon fat, iodine and fresh blood. Lush and sweet in the mouth, with a wonderfully fine-grained texture that almost hides the wine's intensity and complexity today. The long, youthfully imploded finish features sweet tannins and a piquant note of white pepper. **93.**

2009 Betz Family Syrah La Cote Rousse Red Mountain

Good bright medium ruby. Tight, pure aromas of black raspberry, strawberry, white pepper and flowers, complicated by a sexy apricot quality. Suave on entry, then spicy and aromatic in the middle, with firm acidity and a repeating note of white pepper contributing to the impression of sharp definition. This dense, supple wine is very long on the aftertaste. **94.**

2009 Betz Family Syrah La Serenne Yakima Valley

Bright ruby-red. Pungent, musky aromas of blueberry, cocoa powder and flowers. Juicy and light on its feet, with lovely definition and grip to its berry and floral flavors. An intriguing wild streak runs through this wine from start to very long, firmly tannic finish. Not at all a thick style of syrah, but has the backbone to develop more nuance with bottle age. **93.**



August 2011

2009 Betz Family Winery Pere de Famille - 96

Doing a fine impersonation of a classified growth Pauillac, it offers up a nose of sandalwood, Asian spices, incense, herbal notes, violets, black currants, and blackberry. This sets the stage for an already complex, elegant, smooth-textured, structured wine that will evolve for another 5-7 years. This lengthy, impressive effort will offer prime time drinking from 2016 to 2029.

2009 Betz Family Winery Clos de Betz - 96

Opaque purple in color, it offers up a brooding bouquet of toasty oak, exotic spices, herbs, violets, black currant, and blackberry. Opulent on the palate, the wine has outstanding volume, a laser-like focus, layered fruit, and succulent flavors. This sizable effort will benefit from another 4-5 years of cellaring and drink well through 2028.

2009 Betz Family Winery Grenache Besoleil - 92

Fragrant aromas of underbrush, cedar, Asian spices, a hint of balsamic, and black cherries titillate the nose. Savory, spicy, and racy, this elegant yet intensely flavored wine can be approached now but should drink well through 2021.

2009 Betz Family Winery Syrah La Cote Patriarche - 91

A glass-coating opaque purple color, it offers a pleasing perfume of meat, game, pepper, and blueberry. Slightly compact on the palate, it is an otherwise savory, tasty effort that will drink well through 2020.

2009 Betz Family Winery Syrah Chapitre 3 - 94

Balsam wood, smoked meat, leather, pepper, truffle, and assorted black and blue fruits lead to a loaded, succulent, pleasure-bent Syrah that has the structure and balance to drink well through 2023.

2009 Betz Family Winery Syrah La Cote Rousse - 93

Sexy aromas of smoke, exotic spices, brier, incense, blueberry, and black raspberry lead to a plush, layered, round Syrah with a sense of elegance. This lengthy, concentrated, nicely proportioned effort will also evolve for 2-3 years and provide pleasure through 2023.

2009 Betz Family Winery Syrah La Serenne - 93

Smoke, meat, game, lavender, pepper, and blueberry aromas infuse the nose setting the stage for a velvety textured, succulent, structured Syrah that is likely to evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2023.



Hervey Steiman, Nov. 2011

2009 Betz Family Winery Besoleil - 89: Bright and lively, tight with fine tannins around a juicy core of plum and guava flavors, lingering gently and persistently. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Drink now through 2014.

2009 Betz Family Winery La Serenne - 90: Firm and focused, offering a juicy mouthful of herb-accented blackberry and mineral flavors. Finishes with snappy acidity. Best from 2013 through 2016.

2009 Betz Family Winery La Cote Rousse Syrah - 92: A savory style that emphasizes tobacco and brown sugar notes over fruit, but the blackberry and dark plum flavors come through strong, becoming lavish as the finish lingers. Gets better with succeeding sips. Drink now through 2019.

2009 Betz Family Winery La Cote Patriarche Syrah - 93: Firm and spicy, this intense red bristles with smoky, tarry overtones around a core of blackberry and licorice flavors, persisting nicely against refined tannins. With all that's going on, the flavors have a welcome transparency. Best from 2013 through 2018.



2009 Betz Family La Cote Patriarche Yakima Valley Syrah: All of Bob Betz's Syrahs from 2009 are stellar, but this is testament to two great Washington masters: Betz and Red Willow Vineyard's Mike Sauer, owner of one of the state's first Syrah sites. It's tightly wound and steely right now, with volcanic stone and roasted peppercorn accents to a supple, savory package of plum and soy. The tannins give away its greatness; their refinement and depth out of the gate shows a textural mastery of the highest order.



November 2011

Betz Family Winery 2009 Syrah "La Serenne," Yakima Valley

A beautiful balance between the Rhone Valley and Washington, this wine gives the structure, dark earth and smoke of the best Hermitage along with the full ripeness and intensity of

Washington's best vines. The wine rings with flavors of blackberry, black cherry, and bramble fruit and is a great example of what could be called Washington terroir. Enjoy this wine with steak au poivre, grilles lamb or a thick porterhouse.



Top 100 Cellar Selections 2011

#41: Betz Family 2008 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon

Seductive and complex, the inviting aromas mix incense, blueberries, cassis, licorice and threads of herb and graphite. Flavors are wrapped tightly and unfold gracefully through a long finish. The herbal side of Cabernet is noted without being intrusive. Classic, deep and expressive. - (P.G.) - 95 pts.



Any new set of releases from Betz Family Winery is worthy of anticipation. In keeping with recent vintages, the 2008 Clos de Betz is more immediately exuberant than its Cabernet Sauvignon-based counterpart...this Clos may be my favorite from the winery since the 2003 vintage.

Clos de Betz 2008

<http://www.wawinereport.com/2010/01/washington-wine-report-rating-system.html>: **** (Exceptional)** Stains the glass. Aromatics draw you in with smoke, char, blackberries, licorice, spice, and pencil lead. The palate is tight and brawny with a firm grip of tannins, focused fruit, and silky oak flavors. A rich, exquisite offering that strikes a careful balance between fruit and barrel, power and grace. Give 2-3 years.

Pere de Famille 2008

<http://www.wawinereport.com/2010/01/washington-wine-report-rating-system.html>: **** (Exceptional)** Seductive aromatics of graphite, blackberries, char, spice, and high-toned fruit. On the palate, dark and chewy with exceptionally well integrated, fine grained tannins. As with the Clos, a beautiful demonstration of grace and power, with this wine in particular showing an incredible amount of grace. A lay-me-downer. Give three plus years.

-Sean Sullivan, Washington Wine Report



Betz Family 2008 Bésolleil Grenache Happily, each new vintage of Bésolleil is a bit larger than the previous year, so more people can taste what a joy this wine is. In 2008 it's 82% Grenache, 9% Syrah and 9% Mourvèdre. As with all the Betz wines, it is intensely aromatic. The wine glass fairly explodes with scents of grape, plum, raspberry and cherry. In the mouth grace notes offer hints of leaf and fresh herb. Plush and irresistible. 93 points *Editors' Choice*. —P.G.



Betz Family 2008 La Côte Rousse Syrah This Red Mountain Syrah spent a year in French oak, half new, half once-used. The fruit is wrapped in smoke and coffee, graphite and mineral scents and flavors. Crystal clear and densely packed, this shows none of the funk common in many Washington Syrahs, but an almost claret-like structure and grip. It should age well for a decade or longer. 95 Points *Cellar Selection*. —P.G.



JANUARY 12, 2011 BY GARY VAYNERCHUK

Betz Family Winery, 2006 Clos de Betz

"If you do not know Betz... you are making a huge mistake. One of the great Washington State wines... I'm a big, big fan... His 2006 *Clos de Betz*...beautiful nose, almost Pomerol style. Chalky, a little tobacco and good red fruit. This wine really speaks to me. Extremely smooth. Great cranberry and raspberry with a savory component... beautiful minerality. This wine just connects the dots perfectly with a really long finish." **94 points**

Betz Family Winery, 2008 Clos de Betz

A big, smokey nose with luscious plum and blackberry aromas...A very deep, concentrated palate with well integrated flavors of cedar, and both red and black fruits... good combination of sour cherries and black currants. The finish is bone dry and complex, with ripe tannins. This wine speaks to great winemaking, with tremendous integration of oak. A beautiful transition from the mid-palate to the finish has almost cranberry-like flavors and tannins that make me think this will age well for 15+ years...I like this... I like this a lot. **93 points**

wine review online.com

JANUARY 7, 2011 BY MICHAEL FRANZ

Betz Family Winery, 2007 "Père de Famille" Cabernet Sauvignon

Bob Betz and his family are making amazing wines in Washington State, and this is probably the best of the best (or best of the Betz?). A blend based on Cabernet Sauvignon, it shows very dark color and similarly impressive concentration, but neither is purchased at the price of over-ripeness, as there's notable acidity and a bright streak that lifts the wine and keeps its flavors focused and fresh. Blackberry and cassis are the lead fruit notes, with accents of graphite, minerals, spices and toast. I tasted the 2008 at the winery in July of 2010, and it earned the same impressive score as this 2007. All of the Betz Family wines are excellent and worth a major effort to find and experience. **96 points**

Wine Spectator
www.winespectator.com

"It's no coincidence, then that the dazzling parade of Syrahs from Washington—and from Bob Betz in particular—continues to amaze me. I'm more convinced than ever of this wine's potential for even greater things...The Betz Syrahs remind me of the great single-vineyard reds from Guigal...Betz's trio of Syrahs from 2007 (the *La Côte Rousse*, from Red Mountain; *La Côte Patriarche Red Willow Vineyard*, from Yakima; and the *La Serenne Boushey Vineyard*, also Yakima) possess the body, weight, texture and range of beefy, peppery, wild berry flavors that invite comparison with Guigal in a most flattering manner."

—James Laube, Senior Editor for Wine Spectator

Winefoot
Trekking down the wine Lifestyle

2009 Betz Family Winery Syrah La Serenne - Duane Pemberton, 10/2011

Family man and winemaker, Bob Betz is – by most accounts – the nicest man you're likely to ever meet in the wine industry or in life, period. His kindness and gentle soul are reflective in his wine and frankly that's why he's had the success he's had. Betz is a must-have wine sought out by Washington wine lovers for well over a decades now and that's because Bob and his team have stayed with the simple approach of "doing the right thing" in both winemaking and how they treat their customers. **Nose:** Black plum, road tar, cedar, fresh game, coriander, cassis, black pepper and pipe tobacco. **Taste:** Plums, hoisin sauce, peppercorns, loganberry and wild game bombard the palate in the most eloquent of ways. This is easily one of the best Syrah's I've ever had – it has everything in it that I adore about Syrah. Fruit, body, acidity and a finish to die for that hangs around for months. In fact, the finish keeps coming back – bringing with it some nice reach-around action of more dark fruit and blueberry compote.

seattle THE PREMIER SEATTLE MONTHLY

Best Washington State Wines 2011: Community Building Award

Bob Betz isn't just a Washington state wine pioneer, having appeared on the scene at Chateau Ste. Michelle in the 1970s. He's an ever-flowing font of knowledge and inspiration to many up-and-coming vintners. "He's always learning, and there's not a second that doesn't go by when he's not giving back, especially to young winemakers," says Anna Schafer of Maurice Cellars in Walla Walla. The only Master of Wine in the



U.S. to be making wine commercially, Betz is dedicated to training candidates from this region and around the world, spending a week each January teaching seminars in Napa Valley. Ryan Pennington of the Washington Wine Commission calls the head of Betz Family Winery "a tremendous resource," and Betz says he loves participating in projects that promote Washington wines, including the Taste Washington road shows. During the 2010 growing season, the busy producer collaborated with his vineyard managers on experiments to maximize quality during cool years.



100 Best Washington Wines of 2011

#11: Betz Family Winery La Côte Patriarche Syrah, Red Willow Vineyard, Yakima Valley 2009 - 93 Points

An aromatic wine made from 100 percent syrah, it smells of char, blueberries, game, earth, and vanilla, and the palate is textured with lush fruit flavors.

#16: Betz Family Winery Besoleil Red Wine Columbia Valley 2009 \$45 - 93 Points

Grenache is making waves in Washington, and winemaker Bob Betz's 2009 Besoleil red (in which grenache is blended with syrah, mourvedre, and cinsault) makes excellent use of the evermore popular grape. Fresh raspberries, game, pepper, mineral notes, and milk chocolate dominate the nose; the palate is full of fruit and ample tannins.

THE RHONE REPORT

Dedicated to the wines and grapes of the Rhone valley

Jeb Dunnuck, June 2011

Betz Family Syrah Chapitre 3 - 96+:

Tasted out of bottle and scheduled to be released in the Spring of 2012, the 2009 Betz Family Syrah Chapitre 3 is a barrel selection of 100% Syrah, chosen based off size and complexity, from 50% Boushey Vineyard, and 50% Red Mountain (Ciel du Cheval and Kiona Vineyards.) Aged in 100% French oak with 50% being new, the wine sports a opaque black, purple color to go with intense, deep aromatics of plum and blackberry fruit, violets, licorice, tar, and beautiful background earth and minerality. Despite the size and intensity here, this stays fresh and lithe on both the nose and palate. Full bodied and powerful, with awesome structure that's partially concealed by a wealth of flesh, this possesses good acidity, a brilliant and focused texture, and a long, classy finish. While this will have the fruit to be approachable on release, it should be left alone for 4-6 years, at which point it should have a solid 10-15 years of prime drinking. Stunning stuff and up there with the best coming out of Washington!

Betz Family Syrah La Cote Patriarche - 95:

From some of the oldest Syrah plantings in the State, the 2009 Betz Family Syrah La Côte Patriarche comes from the sandy soils of the Red Willow Vineyard that's located on the western edge of the Yakima Valley. Yielding a deep black, opaque color, as well as smoky, layered aromatics of chocolate laced black cherries, spice, leafy underbrush, roasted meats, and big minerality, the wine is just beautifully made and shows a dense, concentrated, and age worthy personality. Very pure, with loads of fruit (possibly the most up front fruit of the '09s), a firm, focused texture, and a tannic finish, this beauty should be approachable in 2-4 years, and age effortlessly for 15-20.

Betz Family Syrah La Cote Rousse - 95:

The most dry, savory and structured of the new releases, the 2009 Betz Family Syrah La Côte Rousse, all from the Red Mountain AVA and primarily from the Kiona and Ciel du Cheval Vineyards, sports masculine, edgy aromas of black fruits, dusty minerality, dried beef, graphite, and licorice on the nose. Serious and firm on the palate, this is a Vin de Garde for sure, with medium to full body, a concentrated, rich mid-palate, a savory, grippy texture, edgy acidity, and a chewy, long finish that's loaded with dusty, earthy tannin. Possibly more approachable than this note would have you believe, with lots to love now, I would still advise cellaring this beauty for 3-5 years, at which point, it should drink well for two decades. Gorgeous stuff and getting up there with benchmark status.

Betz Family Syrah La Serenne - 94:

Sourced from Dick Boushey's vineyard in Yakima Valley and 100% Syrah from a single clone, the 2009 Betz Family Syrah La Serenne is a gorgeous wine and easily the most approachable of the '09 Syrahs. Possessing a vibrant, opaque purple color, as well as captivating and brilliantly pure aromatics of blackberry and raspberry liqueur, charred meat, violets, ground pepper,



and serious minerality, the wine is medium+ bodied on the palate and possesses an elegant, perfectly balanced, streamlined profile. Far from a fruit bomb, this opens up over the evening and highlights a supple, seamless texture, fantastic integration of acidity, fruit, and tannin, and a long, structured finish. Given the balance and purity, this is no doubt superb now. However, I think it will be even better with bottle age. I would give bottles 2-4 years in the cellar, at which point this should drink well for a 10-15 years.

Betz Family Besoleil - 91:

Showing even better out of bottle than barrel, the 2009 Betz Family Besoleil is a blend of 67% Grenache, 14% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre, and 9% Cinsault, that was aged for 12 months in old barrels. Sporting a decidedly southern Rhone like bouquet of kirsch and strawberry styled fruits, lavender, wet stone, licorice, and spice, the wine is medium+ bodied on the palate and beautifully put together, possessing pure fruit, solid acidity, and a focused, classically styled finish. Superb now, this should evolve positively for 2-4 years, and have a good 10-12 years prime drinking.

Seattle Times article about retiring winemakers.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/living/2015190102_wineretire31.html

