



FAMILY WINERY

## 2014 *La Côte Patriarche*, Red Willow Vineyard Syrah

**The 2014 Vintage...** In the vineyards, 2014 marked the third year in a row for an early start for vine growth. Flowering, a crucial period in the vines annual cycle, took place under ideal weather conditions. The warm, calm weather resulted in one of the most compressed flowering periods in recent years, and very even berry size. This also meant that a large crop was hanging in the vineyards, which allowed growers to "green harvest", a mid-season dropping of any bunches that were uneven or lagging behind in development.

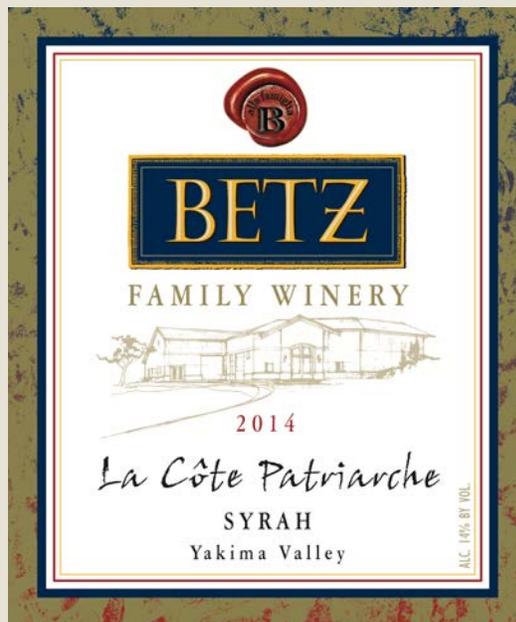
Steady heat continued through July and August, leading to the earliest harvest ever for Betz Family Winery: we picked our first grapes on September 3rd. Over the following 4 weeks we harvested over 40 different vineyard blocks, many of them only 1-2 tons in size. Add to that our time in the vineyards in order to make the best harvest decisions possible, we visited and sampled each vineyard two to three times each week. We were rocking! The wines reflect the steady weather and even grape ripeness.

The story of *La Côte Patriarche* is intimately linked to the story of the Syrah grape in Washington. When Mike Sauer (Red Willow Vineyard) and David Lake (Columbia Winery) made the prescient choice to plant the State's first Syrah vines at Red Willow in 1986, neither of them could have imagined the far-reaching impact of their decision. Washington produces some of the most profound Syrah in the world and approximately two-thirds of the state's plantings trace their origins to this original block. We've been fortunate enough to use this original planting as the sole source of *La Côte Patriarche* since 2007.

Red Willow Vineyard's location is unique, with no other vineyards nearby, down a lonely road in the far western reaches of the Yakima Valley. The Sauer family share a dedication to their craft that is clearly displayed in the quality of their grapes and the meticulous farming methods they employ. Over the past eight seasons, the character of this block has been remarkably consistent: blackest purple in color, brooding aromatics and a vibrant, deep flavor profile. In 2014, the arrival of our first

concrete tanks offered us the chance to experiment with a new fermentation vessel for *La Côte Patriarche* with the goal of adding new dimensions of texture and aromatic profile.

The 2014 *La Côte Patriarche* shows the wine's hallmark traits: a deep black-magenta color, a palate of vibrant blue fruits and subtle aromatic notes of thyme and lavender. For the second season in row, 500 liter barrels were used to maintain fresh fruit character and lower oak influence. The new concrete fermentation vessels lend roundness to the blend and length to the finish. The result is a brooding and youthful *La Côte Patriarche* with superb structural integration and fine texture.



### CURRENT RATING:

**Robert Parkers Wine Advocate - 98 POINTS**

*"One of the wines of the vintage is the 2014 La Cote Patriarche, and it's the finest vintage of this cuvee ever made. All from the Red Willow vineyard and some of the oldest Syrah vines in the state, this incredible Syrah yields a layered, awesomely pure bouquet of black and blue fruits, violets, herbes de Provence and graphite, with cool climate notes of olives and violets emerging with time in the glass. Big, rich, layered and more sexy and seamless than the Cote Rousse, it needs 3-4 years of cellaring and will keep through 2034."* - **Jeb Dunnuck**

