

The Lusch List

UNIQUE WINE RECOMMENDATIONS & EXPERIENCES



Que Syrah Syrah

In a world where bigger is often considered better, Syrah definitely delivers. Maybe even bigger and better than, do I dare say, Cabernet Sauvignon? Well, it is darker than Cabernet Sauvignon and produces some of the most full-bodied red wines in the world. Syrah, aka Shiraz, packs a punch of flavor plus it contains high amounts of health-invigorating antioxidants...just what the doctor ordered! So, what is the difference between Syrah, Shiraz and Petite Sirah? Syrah is what it's called in France's Rhone Valley where it is known by the names of the various Rhone villages (i.e. Hermitage, Cote-Rotie, St. Joseph) and Shiraz is what winemakers in Australia (and New Zealand and South Africa) typically call it. And to clarify, Petite Sirah is an entirely different grape, not to be confused with Syrah/Shiraz.

The Wine: [Tenet The Pundit Syrah, 2016, Columbia Valley, Washington](#)

Cost: \$25

Where I Purchased: [Buon Vino](#)

Syrah, which means 'princess' in Arabic, is anything but delicate. It produces concentrated, intense, powerful, age-worthy red wines with dark fruit flavors ranging from sweet blueberry to savory black olive. Most Old World Syrah's have more acidity and earthy-herbaceous aromas while the New World styles are more fruit-driven with lots of spice. Some of the most highly regarded and expensive styles are from the 340+ acre appellation called Hermitage in the Northern Rhone Valley of France, prized for their floral and smoky aromas of blackberry and grilled meat.

The Northern Rhone Valley is where most New World producers have taken inspiration and have realized that Syrah is most suited to cool climates. And terroir is the reason for the high-quality Syrahs coming from Washington state. The varied geography, soil and climate has put Washington on the Syrah map, but it took some time and understanding to get to that point. Early on, many young winemakers misunderstood the grape and produced styles similar to Cabernet Sauvignon, using too much oak that crushed the nuances of the grape. Much has changed over the years and now high-quality Syrah is being made and is considered a standout varietal in Washington. Washington Syrahs are savory yet fruit and floral, very much like Northern Rhone wines.

Tenet Wines is a project between the iconic Washington state winery Chateau Ste. Michelle, the acclaimed Rhone winemaker Michel Gassier, and famed Rhone enology consultant Philippe Cambie. It establishes a parallel between Syrahs from the renowned Rhone Valley and its tremendous potential in Washington state.

"I love the elegance, balance and the strong sense of place Washington Syrah has," says Gassier. "The goal of the project is to focus on that sense of place. We want The Pundit to be a measuring stick for Rhone varieties in Washington."

I would say, mission accomplished!

Tasting Notes:

90% Syrah, 4% Grenache, 4% Mourvedre, 2% Viognier

Style: complex, fragrant, medium-bodied, rich

Nose: dark berry fruits, pepper, subtle smoky meat note

Palate: ripe blackberry, raspberry, blueberry, spice

Finish: smooth, fine tannins, long silky finish

Pairing:

Syrahs from Washington can easily be enjoyed on their own. However, if you

are looking to pair it with your next meal, look for rich roasted or grilled foods like herb-crusted lamb, steak with chimichurri sauce, beef stew, braised short ribs, or even some BBQ.

Where to buy:

I am excited to introduce you to a new place to shop for wine. I randomly found them on Google and after further research, realized that it had an “old wine friend” connection. So, it was definitely meant to be! I wanted to highlight [Buon Vino](#) because it is different than any traditional wine shop previously featured. It is an independent, local place that you can visit and purchase wine onsite. It is important to note that while [Buon Vino](#) is a small location, the wines available are all highly rated and sought after. And this is just the tip of the iceberg with them. You can also buy wine directly from their website and have it delivered for FREE anywhere in the DFW metroplex, or even join one of their subscription services. But its real superpower is their personal wine concierge service which specializes in helping you find almost any bottle you could possibly want. Seriously, any bottle at any price point.

Here is what their site says:

Our business is based on client relationships. We take special care to learn our client's palates and provide quality recommendations. Due to the nature of our business, we are afforded special pricing on many of our wines that you will not find on our website and will often times be the lowest price in the nation! The best way to get the deepest pricing available is to join our mailing list. If you are interested, we can send you emails on these specially priced wines, as soon as each one becomes available. We can source any wine that you are looking for and can arrange for delivery or shipment at your convenience.

Now that is a different approach to buying wine. And personal wine concierge just sounds cool, doesn't it? I almost feel like a concierge myself discovering [Buon Vino](#) and telling you all about it.

Until next time!
Courtney
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