

BEAST

2013 Wildebeest

Nature of the BEAST

The mercurial nature of our BEAST wines allows us the freedom to explore new varietals, new vineyards and new blends beyond the classic Buty portfolio. Made with a clear vision and voice, these wines have developed their own faithful following. Our Wildebeest and Sphinx are available nationally in fine restaurants and wine shops.

Lair of the BEAST

A denizen of the Columbia Valley, our 2013 Wildebeest hails from far and wide. 45% of the grapes (syrah, cabernet sauvignon and malbec) for this lush and layered wine come from Phinny Hill Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. An additional 43% (syrah and grenache) comes from our own organically farmed Rockgarden Estate in the newly minted Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA, with the final 12% (cabernet franc and merlot) sourced from the legendary Conner Lee Vineyard.

Season of the BEAST

2013 delivered plenty of sunshine, and a lack of any significant rain events, allowing us complete control over irrigation, which in turn enabled us to fine tune crop size and fruit development. A big cool down in the last several weeks of the growing season ensured that we were able to pick each grape variety exactly when we wished.

Winemaking

Our 2013 Wildebeest was blended from 59% syrah, 14% cabernet sauvignon, 11% cabernet franc, 8% malbec, 7% grenache and 1% merlot. Every variety from each individual vineyard was fermented and aged separately for 20 months. In order to allow Wildebeest to display its native fruit and spice character, the barrels were generally older (from two to five years), and included 92% French oak and 8% American oak, with 6% new oak overall. The alcohol content is 14.7%.

Notes Upon Encountering the Wildebeest

Driven by the juicy dark berry jam notes of our Phinny Hill syrah and the compelling savory spice character of syrah from our Rockgarden Estate, this lush and silky wine is perhaps our finest Wildebeest ever. We love the way these two syrahs meld together, creating a gorgeous core for this blend, with the cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc adding lovely tannic structure and body, the malbec contributing black pepper and spice, and the grenache and merlot providing a dash of vibrant red fruit.

Release Date: Halloween 2016