



**91+**

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## **2005 Grand Reve Reserve Syrah**

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The 2005 Reserve Syrah contains 3% Viognier aged in 100% new French oak for 38 months. It gives up aromas of toasty oak, pencil lead, lilacs, pepper, garrigue notes and blue fruits. On the palate it is quite tannic and the oak has yet to integrate. It will need to drop some tannin for the wine to come into balance. Grand Reve Vintners is a collaboration between Paul McBride and Ryan Johnson to grow grapes and produce wine focused on the Red Mountain AVA. They are planting the first hillside vineyard in Red Mountain on the slopes above Col Solare at 955 to 1230 feet of elevation. I visited the site in June, 2010, and it is a remarkable piece of work. The winemaking is in the hands of five top local winemakers, Ben Smith (Collaboration I) making a Cabernet blend, Ross Michel (Collaboration II) a Rhone blend, Mark McNeilly (Collaboration III) a Syrah, Carolyn Lakewold (Collaboration IV) a Merlot, and Chris...

**- Jay S Miller (August, 2010)**