

2008 Ultima



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 21 - 31 years
Yield: 2.5 tons/acre
Sugar at Pressing: 35.7 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.27
Residual Sugar: 19.2 %
Bottled: February 2009
Cases Produced: 496 (12/375ml)

Elk Cove's Ultimas are our definition of dessert; opulence in a bottle. Having long ago established a "cult-like" status, Riesling remains the cornerstone of our new blend, simply called Ultima. The Ultima is comprised each vintage of a selection of aromatic varietals consisting of a proprietary blend. While Riesling supplies the weight of this wine with fresh pear, apricot and honey notes the supplemental varietals adds beautiful delicate aromatics.

There is a quiet kind of excitement in the Willamette Valley after harvest 2008. Phrases and clichés keep rolling on such as classic cool climate, vintage conditions that are only dreamt of, potential to show the best of what Oregon has to offer. Add to this, repeated references to perhaps one of Oregon's best vintages, 1999 and understandably many in the valley are smiling. Oregon's 2008 growing season started late, with bud break on average ten days to two weeks behind schedule and followed with a relatively cool growing season. Thoughts of the recent wet and cool harvest of 2007 had many aggressively thin vineyards to concentrate fruit and speed up ripening and ward off disease pressure. Yet as in 1999, a beautiful Oregon autumn saved the day! Fall was spectacular with sunny days and cold nights laying the foundation to produce extraordinary wines.

We often describe our Ultima as indulgent and decadent, yet they are always kept in balance with crisp acidity and freshness. Historically these wines only grow in beauty with age. Potential for this wine with cool cellaring is up to twenty years.

Reviews

2008 Ultima

93 Pts. ~ *Wine Spectator* ~ April, 30 2011

"Sweet and spicy, tasting of orange marmalade, pineapple, hazelnut and honey. The luscious finish lingers with finesse. Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Muscat. Drink now through 2015." – H.S.

2008 Ultima

93 Pts. ~ *Wine & Spirits* ~ August 2010

2004 Ultima

91 Pts. ~ *The Wine Spectator*

2000 Riesling Ultima

91 Pts. ~ *The Wine Spectator* ~ June 15, 2002

"Sweet, unctuous and yummy with honeyed apricot, floral and cream flavors, which echo beautifully on the silken finish. Drink now through 2006." – H.S.