



K VINTNERS	2005	THE BOY	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$40.00)	RED	92
K VINTNERS	2005	THE CREATOR EN CERISE	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$45.00)	RED	96
K VINTNERS	2005	EL JEFE EN CHAMBERLIN	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$55.00)	RED	94
K VINTNERS	2005	OVIDE EN CERISE	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$55.00)	RED	94
K VINTNERS	2005	ROMA	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$55.00)	RED	93
K VINTNERS	2005	SYRAH THE BEAUTIFUL	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$50.00)	RED	95
K VINTNERS	2005	SYRAH COUGAR HILLS VINEYARD	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$45.00)	RED	92
K VINTNERS	2005	SYRAH THE DEAL	SUNDANCE VINEYARD, WAHLUKE SLOPE	(\$35.00)	RED	94
K VINTNERS	2003	SYRAH THE HUNTER	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$100.00)	RED	97
K VINTNERS	2005	SYRAH MORRISON LANE	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$45.00)	RED	91
K VINTNERS	2005	SYRAH PHIL LANE	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$70.00)	RED	92
K VINTNERS	2005	SYRAH WELLS	WALLA WALLA VALLEY	(\$50.00)	RED	95
K VINTNERS	2007	VIIGNIER	COLUMBIA VALLEY	(\$20.00)	WHITE	91

K Vintners is where the larger-than-life Charles Smith presides. He is an innovator, marketing genius, outspoken, you name it – but above all the man is a brilliant winemaker who knows where all the great fruit is hidden. In a region where blending is the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate *terroirist*. Each wine reflects the vineyard from which it was produced but there is also a house style which lets you know immediately who made the wine. While it's way too soon to put K Vintners on the same level as a Domaine Leroy or Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, the experience you get tasting in the cellar is much the same as in those legendary wineries, brilliantly made wines reflecting the *terroir* but also a winemaking signature that makes it totally clear which winery made the wine.

K Vintners showed one white wine, the **2007 Viognier**. It was fermented with native yeasts (as are all the K Vintner wines) in neutral oak. Light gold-colored, it offers up alluring aromas of mineral, peach, apricot, and tropical notes. On the palate there is excellent acidity and the minerality of the wine becomes more apparent. Well-balanced and long, this is a wine to drink over the next 1-2 years with Pacific Northwest salmon.

The following Syrahs are discussed in the order in which they were presented at the winery. The **2005 Syrah The Deal – Sundance Vineyard** is purple-colored with a fragrant nose of mineral, scorched earth, game, espresso, blueberry, and blackberry. Opulent on the palate, rich, and full-flavored, the wine has gobs of spicy fruit leading to a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. Give it 2-3 years to evolve and drink it through 2018. The **2005 Syrah Cougar Hills** is a bit more restrained aromatically with a more elegant personality. Concentrated, ripe, and round, the flavors are already exhibiting complexity, and the finish is very long. Allow for another 3-4 years in the cellar and drink it through 2020. The **2005 Syrah Morrison Lane** is purple-colored with an excellent perfume of wood smoke, mineral, spice box, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. The flavors are developing well but the wine is in need of a bit more mid-palate depth. Drink it over the next 6-8 years. The **2005 Syrah The Beautiful** is also from the Cougar Hills Vineyard but in this case 5% Viognier was co-fermented. This gives the aromatics a serious lift. On the palate the wine is round and rich, elegant yet powerful. Spice, game, and pepper accompany layered blue fruits into a lengthy finish. This is a wine for hedonists only. The **2005 Syrah Phil Lane** was sourced from a vineyard

yielding 0.5 tons of fruit per acre. The nose offers up meat, game, bacon, spice box, pepper, and blueberry. It is just a bit lean on the palate and a bit restrained but the texture is smooth, the flavors pleasing, and the finish is long. The **2005 Syrah Wells** is dark ruby-colored with an alluring bouquet of smoked meat, game, and camphor oil. Elegant yet opulent, the wine is already complex, the fruit ripe and sweet, and the finish long. This concentrated effort is a total crowd-pleaser. The **2003 Syrah The Hunter** is a full-bore, pedal to the metal wine with a splendid perfume of *pain grillé*, pencil lead, blueberry, blackberry, and licorice. It is the most structured of the Syrahs – 8-10 years of cellaring would be beneficial, although the wine is already layered and rich. With ideal storage it should continue to provide pleasure through 2035.

The final five wines are blends. The **2005 The Boy** is 88% Grenache and 12% Syrah. It offers sensational aromatics, kirsch liqueur, smoke, toast, black cherry, blueberry, and *garrigue*. On the palate, this Châteauneuf du Pape look-alike delivers gobs of ripe fruit and layers of flavor but manages to remain elegant. This lengthy effort can be enjoyed now but should keep for a decade. The quality of Washington Grenache is clearly demonstrated by The Boy. The **2005 Roma** is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Syrah. It reveals aromas of blood sausage, bacon, black currants, and blackberry followed by a layered yet elegant wine with great concentration and 6-8 years of aging potential. It will be at its best from 2015 to 2030. The **2005 Ovide En Cérise** is the same blend as Roma but from a vineyard owned by Christophe Baron of Cayuse. It offers up notes of fresh herbs, leather, and tobacco, is a bit broader and mouth-coating, and slightly longer in the finish. The **2005 El Jefe En Chamberlin** was sourced from another Cayuse vineyard. Smoky aromas with notes of black cherry and blackberry are impressive. On the palate the wine is layered and complex with tons of flavor and a sense of elegance. This lengthy wine will be at its best from 2012 to 2020. The **2005 The Creator En Cérise** is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Syrah. The wine is super-expressive aromatically with notes of *pain grillé*, pencil lead, blueberry, spice box, and black currant jam. Sweet and layered with all components in harmony, this opulent effort easily conceals enough tannin to support 6-8 years of cellaring. It should be at its best from 2015 to 2030. www.kvintners.com

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CHARLES SMITH WINES	2005	HEART SYRAH	ROYAL SLOPE	(\$70.00)	RED	97
CHARLES SMITH WINES	2005	THE SKULL SYRAH	ROYAL SLOPE	(\$70.00)	RED	98
CHARLES SMITH WINES	2005	OLD BONES SYRAH	ROYAL SLOPE	(\$100.00)	RED	99

Charles Smith, the mastermind of K Vintners, bottles his very best wines from the obscure Royal Slope under a separate label. These are stunning Syrahs that must be tasted to be believed. They are technically within the massive Columbia Valley AVA but Smith feels the Royal Slope (or Royal Slut as he refers to it) should be recognized in its own right. The **2005 Heart Syrah** is whole berry fermented with aging for 24 months in seasoned French barrels. All of Smith's wines are fermented with native yeasts and bottled without fining or filtration. It gives off a room-filling bouquet of cedar, leather, mineral, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Opulent, powerful, and layered on the palate, it conceals enough structure to

see the wine through another 6-8 years of evolution. It will be at its best from 2015 to 2030. The **2005 Syrah The Skull** comes from a different section of the Royal Slope. If it is possible, the wine is a bit more structured and powerful. It needs 8-10 years of cellaring and will be at its best from 2017 to 2035. The **2005 Syrah Old Bones** is a blend of The Heart and The Skull but aged in 500-liter barrels. It is more complex, opulent, and totally hedonistic. It will be at its best from 2017 to 2035. For a fascinating demonstration of *terroir*, do a side-by-side tasting of the 2005 K Vintner and Charles Smith Syrahs but bring a lot of ribs and pulled pork barbecue and turn it into a party. www.kvintners.com