

DEFIANT



DEFIANT III

Charmstone Vineyard, Rock's District of Milton Freewater

"Perhaps America's most distinctive example of terroir." —Harvey Steiman of Wine Spectator

SENSE OF PLACE

Charmstone Vineyard is a place where resilience becomes character. Its rocky volcanic soils and dramatic day-to-night temperature shifts challenge the vines, yet reward patience with fruit of exceptional depth and intensity. The site's natural balance of power and freshness gives rise to wines shaped as much by the land as by the hands that farm it, revealing a distinctive mineral energy and enduring sense of place.

"I do not doubt that The Rocks District will emerge as one of the United States' most respected and exalted wine producing regions."
— Eric Guido, *Vinous*

WINEMAKING

100% Estate Fruit from our 6.1-acre parcel planted in 2018, adjacent to our Seven Hills Founding Vineyard. Defiant III is rooted in our estate vineyard in The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater, where own-rooted Syrah clones Phelps, 470, Alban, and GGN 19 capture the character of this distinctive terroir. A touch of Grenache from clones 3 and 515 adds lift and complexity. Each lot is fermented separately in small open-top fermenters, then aged in French oak puncheons and Austrian demi-muids, with 33% new oak, to build texture while preserving a strong sense of place. This wine reflects the rugged beauty and refined craftsmanship of the place. Filtered. Vegan.

MULTI-VINTAGE APPROACH

Climatic changes have accelerated new farming practices over the last handful of years to moderate temperature extremes (both cold and hot), but by the nature of its geography, Charmstone Vineyard remains highly susceptible to those extremes.

To truly showcase this distinctive terroir, we may blend our wines across vintages from time to time. Combining a bit from warmer vintages with lush fruit character with the racy acidity of a cooler season. It's our opinion that this best showcases our unique parcel in the appellation and makes a phenomenal wine.

BLEND COMPOSITION FOR DEFIANT III

- 92.5% from the 2025 harvest
- 7% from the 2024 harvest
- 0.5% from the 2023 harvest

TASTING NOTES

This wine pours a deep ruby hue with garnet edges, hinting at the richness and energy within. The nose opens with a captivating blend of smoked meats, black olives, and earthy truffle, woven together with ripe blackberry, dark plum, and a delicate lift of violets. Notes of black pepper and crushed stone echo the distinctive basalt soils of the vineyard, lending a sense of place and intrigue. On the palate, layers of black cherry and blueberry unfold into savory accents of cured meats, leather, and black olive tapenade. Beneath it all runs a thread of earthy minerality and subtle salinity, a quiet reminder of the ancient rocks from which this wine draws its character. Velvety tannins provide structure and depth, while fresh acidity keeps the wine vibrant and beautifully balanced. The finish is long and savory, lingering with hints of smoked bacon, crushed stone, and graphite. Bold yet refined, this is a compelling expression of site, where rugged terroir and elegant complexity come together in remarkable harmony. Pair with rosemary-crusted lamb chops, wild mushroom risotto, or slow-braised short ribs.

DETAILS

VARIETAL BREAKDOWN 93% Syrah, 6% Grenache, 1% Carignan

pH 3.95 **TA** 5.4 G/L **ALCOHOL** 14.5% **CASE PRODUCTION** 125

For those seeking the extraordinary and dare to explore the unknown

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