

2007 Syncline G S M C Cuvee Elena

Rating: 93
Drink: 2009-2019

The 2007 Cuvee Elena is a blend of 70% Grenache, 17% Mourvedre, and the balance Carignan, Cinsault, and Syrah. The wine has terrific aromatics that would make most producers of Chateauneuf-du-Pape very proud. Aromas of spice box, raspberry, cranberry, garrigue, and underbrush lead to a silky, elegant, exceptionally concentrated and impeccably balanced wine that can be enjoyed now and over the next 8-10 years.

James and Poppie Mantone's Syncline Wine Cellars is on the eastern edge of the beautiful Columbia Gorge, an area better known for outdoor sports (fishing, boating, wind surfing) than wine production.

Tel. (509) 365-4361; www.synclnewine.com...

- Jay Miller (October, 2009)

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2007 Syncline Mourvedre Coyote Canyon Vineyard

Rating: 93
Drink: 2013-

The 2007 Mourvedre Coyote Canyon Vineyard was raised in seasoned 500-liter barrels. It has an untamed bouquet of underbrush, truffle, wild blueberry, and blackberry liqueur leading to an intense, concentrated, dense, rich wine with exceptional length. The wine demands 4-6 years of cellaring to give its full expression.

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2007 Syncline Pinot Noir Celilo Vineyard

Rating: 91
Drink: 2009-2015

Syncline produces a Columbia Gorge Pinot Noir (a few others are reviewed in my Oregon report.). The 2007 Pinot Noir Celilo Vineyard is sourced from a dry-farmed vineyard planted in 1972. The wine was aged for 12 months in 20% new French oak. It displays a lovely perfume of black raspberry and black cherry. Silky-textured, sweetly fruited, and elegant, it can be enjoyed now and over the next 6 years.

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2007 Syncline Syrah

Rating: 93
Drink: -

The 2007 Syrah is 65% Horse Heaven Hills and 35% Wahluke Slope fruit. An enticing nose of spice box, smoked meat, hung game, and blueberry are first class. This leads to an elegant yet mouth-filling Syrah that has exceptional concentration and length. It can be enjoyed now for its fleshy fruit but will be more refined and civilized with 6-8 years of additional bottle age.

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2008 Syncline Rose

Rating: 90

Drink: -

The 2008 Rose is a mouth-watering blend of 44% Cinsault, 30% Grenache, 17% Mourvedre, and 9% Counoise made entirely from saignee juice. It delivers a spicy bouquet of strawberry and rhubarb leading to a wine which is dry on the palate, exceptionally fruity, and rich. It is a splendid match with salmon.

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2008 Syncline Viognier Coyote Canyon Vineyard

Rating: 90

Drink: 2009-2012

Syncline's 2008 Viognier Coyote Canyon Vineyard offers a lovely nose of baking spices, floral notes, peach, and apricot. Very concentrated, savory, and ripe, this classy Viognier will provide pleasure for another 2-3 years.

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