

# basket Case

## 2005 Syrah Tech Notes

Vintage: 2005  
Wine: Syrah  
Appellation: Washington  
Alcohol: 13.9%  
UPC: 893074001000

Have you ever picked fresh blackberries? There is an art form to it. Of course you have to pick only the dark black ones, but color is often misleading. If when you give the berry a little tug, it effortlessly slides off the stem, well, that berry should go directly in to your mouth, 'cause it doesn't get any better than that. If there is a little resistance, you drop it in your pail. At the end of the day, your fingers will have an amazing aroma-it's part blackberry leaf, from parting the greenery to get at the good stuff, and part jammy syrup that will stain for weeks. This leafy jammy aroma is exactly what we get when we smell a glass of our 2005 Syrah.

For Basket Case Wines, 2005 is what we call a soft year. The tannin's weren't particularly aggressive, and rather than try to coax them out and risk an overly chewy wine we let nature take its course and tried to keep the rest of the wine in balance with the elegant tannins. The result, we feel, is a deliciously smooth wine, with lots of hints of excitement but nothing that wallops you over the head. The mid-palate is soft and juicy, without being sweet, and it fades into a quick finish that tricks you into thinking it's over, but then returns when you least expect it with a last reminder of fruit, softness, and a touch of tannin.

This wine is the perfect Wednesday night pizza wine, or, if you are like us, the opportunity for a weekend party evening of keeping the glass at least half full!

Side note: Over the last 10 years we have decided that wine is full of memories. We've had Cabernet's that remind us of blueberry pie and others green bell pepper, Pinot's that are like freshly picked cherries and Syrah's that range from leather to lace. Grab a glass of wine and start reliving your childhood! (Or drown out the memories...)