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WINO MAGAZINE — EXPERIENCE WASHINGTON WINE ONLINE

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ZLQGRZV 3XOOLQJ XS WKHGULYHZHW WKHZLQH\ SDWWDPHQDJHUHRI IDUP H[XLSPHQWZHFRXOGVHHIIHOOVRI
SXPSNLQVDQG YHJHWDEOHVEHWZHHQSORWVRI JUDSHYLQHV 7KHUHLVVRPHWKLQJ DERXWYLQH\DUGVWKDWLQVSLUHD
VHQVHRI VHUHQHQRVWDOOD HYHQ IRUWKRVHZKRKDYHQHYHUEHHQDURXQGJUDSHYLQHV 2QHJHWVDVHQVHRI WKH
HDUWK WKHOLHRI WKHYLQHV WKHJURZWKRI WKHEHUULHV DQGWKHVRLOWKDWKDVEHHQSRXUHGLQWRDOORI WKHVHWKLQJV
7KHYLQH\DUGLVVRPHWKLQJ WKDW*HDUG%HQW\Q RZQHUDQGZLQHPDNHUIRU [BDLQEULGJH, ,VODQG9LQH\DUGVDQG
: LQH\] LVYHU\ SDWLRQDMDERXW) RURYHUWKUHHGHFDGHV *HDUGKDVEHHQJURZLQJ JUDSHVRQKLV%DLQEULGJH
, VODQGIDUP DQGP DNLQJ ZLQHLQDWUDGLWLRQKHORYHV

7KLVZLQHP DNHULVIURP WKHROGJXDUG ZKHQZLQHULHVDQGYLQH\DUGVZHUHDWXP HGWREH QRQ P RXV DQG
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VXQGRZQZD\ RI OLH ³: LQHLVDP HWDSKRUIRUOLH´KHWROGP HDQGKHP EUDFHVWKHEHDXW\DQGFRP P XQLW\
RI WKHZLQHFHQWHUHGOLHVW\OH * HDUGKDVDORQJ FRORUIXOKLVWRU\ WKDWKDVEURXJKWKLP WRZKHUHKHLVWRGD\
' XULQJ WKHZDULQ9LHWQDP 3UHVLGHQW HQQHG\ WRRNDQHZDSSURDFKWRWKHGUDWWDQGGHFLGHGWKDWWROOLHV
VKRXOGVHYHQSRVLWLRQVDSSURSULDWHWRWKHLUFLYLOLDQVNLOOHW+DYLQJ ZRUNHGIRU%HOO\ DEVIRUDQXP EHURI
\HDUVZLOOIDDOORI KLVIULHQGVZHUHJHWWLQJ VHQWWRWKHIURQWOLQHV * HDUGZDVVHQWWR(XURSHWRZRUNRQ+DZN
JXLGHGP LVWOOHVZKHQKHZDVGUDIWG : KLOHWKHUH KHIHOOLQORYHZLWKWKH(XURSHDQODQGVFDSH DQGZLWK
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$IWHUUHWXUQLQJ KRP H * HDUGP DUFKHGLQDQWLZDUGHP RQWWDWLRQVLQ IXOOXQLIRUP ZLWKWKHOLNHVRI ' U0 DUWLQ
/ XWKHU. LQJ -U , WZDVDEDXV\ WLP HIRUKLP EXWWKHZLQHEXJ QHYHUOHIW, Q WKH V * HDUGVWDUWGP DNLQJ
ZLQH DQGHYHQWXDOO\ KHKDGKLVZLIH-R$QQERXJKWWRP HOODQGRQ%DLQEULGJH, VODQGIRUDP HUH   SHU
DFUH DUHDOODQGQRZ VHOOVIRURYHU   SHUDFUH +HFKRVHWKHDUHD EHFDXVHKHGHHP LWP LQHGWKDWLW
ZRXOGEHEHWWVXLWHGIRUWKHJUDSHVKHZDQWGWRJURZ WKH* HP DQLF ZLQHVOLNH6LHJHUUHEHDQG0 OOOHU
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0 OOOHU7KXUJDXLVDK\EULGRI 5LHMOLQJ DQGWKH&KDWHOODVRU6\OYDQHUJUDSH : KLOHDKDUG\ JUDSHLWZLQH
WQGVWREHP LOGDQGVRIWVRP HWLP HVODFNLQJ DFLGLW\ , WLVEHVWJURZQLQFRROFOLP DWVZ KLFK HQFRXUDJH
DFLGLW\ UDWKHUWKDQVXJDU 6LHJHUUHEHLVWKH* HP DQORYHFKLOGRI 0 DGHOLQH$QJHYLQHDQG* HZXUWDP LQHU
%HFDXVHRI LWVHDUO\ ULSHQLQJ FKDUDFWULVWLFV LWVSHUIHFWRUWKHFRROFOLP DWVRI : HVWLQ: DVKLQJWRQ

6LHJHUUHEHZDV W DYDLODEOHLQ WKH8 QLWG6WDWVZKHQ * HDUGZDVJHWWLQJ VWDUWG DQGGXHWRVRP HROGODZV
IILWZDV WDOOHDG\ KHUHKHFRXOGQ WEULQJ DQ\ LQ +HIIQDOO\ ZRUGHGRXWDGHDOZLWKDUHVHDUFKFKHP LVWWR
EX\ VRP HYLQHVIURP 9DQFRXYHU%& IRUWKHHOE 2 QFHLQWKHOE LWZDVVWFKLQJDOO\ LQWKH8 6 VR * HDUGZDV
DEOHWREX\ VL[YLQHVIURP WKHFKHP LVW +HSODQWGWKHP LQVKRUWRUGHU DQGVWDUWLQJ FXWWLQJ VZLWK
HYHU\ RQHKHFRXOGFRQYLQFHWRW\ JURZLQJ LW-R$QQ %HQW\QLVSURXGWRWOOSHRSOHWKDWWKHODQGKHU
KXVEDQGZHUHWKHILUVWRJURZ 6LHJHUUHEHLQWKH8 QLWG6WDWV

* HDUG%HQW\Q LVDSXULVWRVD\ WKHOHDWW$VHOIGHFUHEHGFXUP XGJHRQ LWWDNHVOLWWOHSURYRFDWLRQWRJHW
KLP WRSRQWLILFDWHDERXWKLVSKLORVRSK\ RI ZLQHP DNLQJ DQGWRRIIHUGDWEHVDERXWZ KDWWKH: DVKLQJWRQ
6WDWZLQHLQGXVWW\ KDVEHFRP H (YHQWDOO\ WKHG\QDP LFIQQRYDWLRQRI : DVKLQJWRQZLQHP DNLQJ H[FOXGHV
WKHDJHROGSUDFWLFHVRI WKHSXULVW ³: LQHLVP HDQGSODFHLQDERWWOH´KHVD\V DQG* HDUGLVRQHRI WKH
GZLQGOLQJ QXP EHURI ZLQHP DNHUVZKRP DNHVLWVZLQHVDWWKHYLQH\DUGVKRZ Q +H\VZLWKWKHZLQHIURP
WKHWLP HRI SODQWLQJ WRWKHWLP HWKHERWWOHVDUHVROG ³2 I FRXUVH DZLQHU\ LVVH[\ EXWDYLQH\DUGLVORYH´$V
JUDSHV DQGHYHQVRP HWLP HVZLQH LVLQFUHDVLQJO\ VRXUFHGIURP DOORYHUWKHVWDWH * HDUGLVDERWKSURXGRI
KLVRZQHIIRUW DQGLUULWDWGE\ WKHHYROXWLRQRI WKHLQGXWW\ ) RUH[DP SOHKHSRLQWRXWWKDWP DQ\ ZLQHULHV
LQFOXGHWKHZRUG³(VWDWH RU³9 LQH\DUGV LQWKHLUQDP HVWKRXJK WKH\ GRQ WRZQDQ\ RI WKHLURZQHVWDWH
YLQH\DUGV +HSRLQWRXWWKDWZLQHULHVZLOOSXWDQDSSHOODWLRQRQRQ WKHODEHOSURGXFHWKHZLQHLQDGLIIHUHQW
UHJLRQ DQGJLYHDZLQH\ DGGUHVVWKDWVLQQRWWKHURFDWLRQDWDOO$FFRUGLQJ WRKLP DOEHVDUHEHFRP LQJ
P HDQLQJOH\³7 KHODZ LVDOORZLQJ LW DQGFRQVXP HVQHYHU SHULHQFDQ FRQQHFWWREHWZHHQWKHZLQHV
WKHZLQHP DNHUV WKHZLQHULHVDQGWKHYLQH\DUGV * HDUGEHOLHYHVWKDWWRXFKLQJ JUDSHVIURP YLQH\DUGVIDU
DZD\ IURP ZLQHULHV³LVVNHEHLQJ P DUULHG EXWKDYLQJ WZR RUWKUHHJILUOIULHQGVRQWKHVLGH´

³ 7KHUH'V VRPHWKLQJ DERXW ZLQH? LQ WKLV KLVWRU\ DQG WKH P\VWLV ² WKDWLV FRP SOHWHO\ ORRW ZKHQ \RX EHJLQ WR IRRZ WKH LQGXVWLDO PRGHO' KH VDLG : KLOJ KH FRQFHGHV WKH SRLQW WKDW P DQ\ RI WKHVH ZLQHV DUH YHU\ JRRG KH EHOLHYHV FXUUHQW SUDFWLFHV DUH GLVLQJHQXRXV %DLQEULGJH , VODQG 9 LQH\DUGV DQG : LQHU\ KDV EHHQ VHO VXVWDLQHG IRU RYHU WKLUW\ \HDUV , WV QRWD KREE\ LWV QRWD KREE\ LWV DOLOH

, Q KLV SKLORVRSKLFDO IRUWLWXGH * HUDUG P DNHV ZLQH WR P DWFK LQGLJHQRXV IRRGV %HFDXVH RI WKLV FUDE DQG RWKHUV VHDIRRG LQ WKH 3DFLILF 1 RUWZHVW WKLV ZLQHV DUH P DGH WR SDLU ZLWK WKDW ORFDO IDUH / LJKW HOHJDQW QXDQFHG DQG DFLGLF WKH ZLQHV IURP %DLQEULGJH , VODQG 9 LQH\DUG DQG : LQH\V ZRQ'W RYHU SRZHU WKH 3XJHW6RXQG VHDIRRG WKDWV VR XELTXLWRXV

³ , WKRXJKW \ FRXOG VHH DQ H[DP SOH IRU RSSRUWRSOH WR GR ZKDW'P GRLQJ EXW WKDW' GLGQ'W WKH H[SHFW DV WKH P HWMRUF ULVHV RI (DWWLQ: DVKLQJWRQ DQG ELJ UHGV´ * HUDUG WROG P H %LJ ERG\ KLJK DOFRKRO ZLQHV KDYH JRWWHQ RYHU ZKHOP LQJ O\ SRSXODU RYHU WKH ODVW GHFDGH GXH LQ SDUW WR WKH SUHHHUHQFHV RI WKH P RWZHOO NQRZ Q ZLQH FULWLFV : LQH KDV EHFRP H D FRFNWDLO SOHP HQWDO WKHU WKDQ P HDO DFFRP SDQLP HQW + H'VYHU\ IUDQN ZKHQ KH VD\V ³ , I \RX'UH HDELJ UHG ZLQHG GULQNHU ZHGRQ'W KDYH DQ\ ZLQH IRU \RX´

+ RZ HYHU VRP H DUH IROORZ LQJ LQ * HUDOG'V IRRWVWHSV (QWHU + ROO\ ZRRG + LOO 9 LQH\DUGV ZKHUH WKHUH DUH HVWDWH YLQH\DUGV FRXSOHG ZLWK WKH ZLQHU\ RQ + ROO\ ZRRG + LOO LQ : RRG LQYLOOH 7KRXJK DQ H 0 LFURVRIWWFKLH 6WYYH 6Q GHULV IROORZ LQJ WKH ROG JXDUG WUDGLWLRQ 6 WDUWLQJ LQ   ZLWK KLV IULHQG 5 RQ 1 HOVRQ JURZ LQJ 6LHJHUUHEH DQG 0   OOHU 7KXUJDX LQ ZKDW KH FDOOV DQ ³ RYHUERZ Q DP DWWXU YHQWXUH0 DXX\   , VODQG 9 LQH\DUG VL[\HDUV ODWHU KH ZDV HVG WR VWUWK LVZ QJ IL $ IWHU FRQLGHULQJ VRP H OODQG IQ 2 UHJRQ KH HWWDEOVKHG KLV ZLQHU\ LQ   LQ : RRG LQYLOOH ZLWK KLV ZLIH %HFN\

7KDWV ZKHQ KH P HW * HUDUG %HQW\ Q , QUMHDUFKLQJ ZKLFK ZLQHV WR JURZ KHFDP H DFURWDQ RQOLQH IRUXP RI ZKLFK * HUDUG ZDV DP HP EHU $ IWHU WUDGLQJ HP DLOV KH ZHQW RXW WR %DLQEULGJH , VODQG : LQH\ WR WDNH RQH RI * HUDOG'V VFODWWHV LQ WKH YLQH\DUGV WKHVH DQG WKH WZR EHFDP H IULHQGV * HUDUG ZDV DQ LQSLUDWLRQ WR 6WYYH ZKR NHSW UHWXUQLQJ WR %DLQEULGJH WR OHDUQ DOO DERXW ZRUNLQJ LQ WKH YLQH\DUGV WKHUH 7KH\ ZR KDYH UP DLQHG FORVH RYHU WKH\HDUV

$ VDWWKH.JDODJILWWH DOO SURGXFWWRQ LV GRQH RQ WKH SURSHUW\ DURXQG KLVKRP H + HJURZ V &KDUGRQQD\ DQG 3 LQRW 1 RLU LQ KLV (VWDWH 9 LQH\DUGV EXW KH DOR FXOWXUHQW\ VRXUFHV VRP H JUDSHV IURP (DWWLQ: DVKLQJWRQ WR VXFK DV 6\UDK IURP . IRQD 9 LQH\DUGV RQ 5 HG 0 RXQWLQ DQG DQRWKHU 6\UDK IURP 3 RUWXV 9 LQH\DUGV LQ =LOODK (YHQWXDOO\ WKRXJK 6WYYH GHDP V RI SURGXFLQJ DOO RI KLV ZLQHV IURP HWWDWH YLQH\DUGV + H SODQV WR H SDQG LQ WKH QH[W\HDU DQG EHJLQ JURZ LQJ 6LHJHUUHEH DQG 0   OOHU 7KXUJDX WKH VXFFHVV RI Z KLFK KDV EHHQ SURYHQ E\ ZLQHULHV OLNH %DLQEULGJH , VODQG : LQH\ DQG ZLWK Z KLFK KH KDV H[SHULHQFH

Stve loves the vineyard aspect of winemaking. He proudly points out the color change in the Pinot lot, the work that needs to be done after the recent rains, calculates the inhibited progress of the berries due to an unseasonably cool summer, and points to the virgin plot of ground where he'll be planting new vines this year. Like Gerad, Stve loves the sun-up to sun-down wine life.

Stve Snder likes to make wines in a French-influenced style, a bit lighter, more nuanced, food wine. A friend of his took a bottle of Hollywood Hill Chardonnay to the Francophile classy [Le Pichet](#) in Seattle to have them try it, and in a blind tast they were sure it was a Loire Valley Chardonnay. They were shocked to hear it was grown and produced right there in Woodinville.

Hollywood Hill Syrah is the big red wine you'd expect from Eastern Washington grapes and he produces it to full demand. Cost of entry is a factor for newer wineries like Hollywood Hill. It's easier for a winemaker like Gerad Bentyn, who has owned his land for decades, to stick to rigid narrow principles. But for someone entering a high-competitve market and with a high start-up cost, unless they are independently wealthy, winemakes like Stve Snder have to consider what they can best sell and work their way toward the autonomy of principle. Forunatly, Hollywood Hill Vines does it very well.

May have said that vineyard grapes just don't grow well in Western Washington. This issue if one's idea of quality only includes high sugar, high alcohol, low acidity, and intnse flavor. It makes sense that there are so many wineries in Western Washington considering large numbes of them sell mostly from their own tasting rooms and the population density ensures customer traffic. It also makes sense that most of Washington's grapes are grown in Eastern Washington, which produce wines that are very popular right now.

But there are a growing number of connoisers and winemakers who are looking to the frmers tive potntial of northen European-style white wines in Western Washington. Mike Lampier of [Perennial Vintners](#) continues to epand his vineyards in Bainbridge Island, and Stve Snder points out that there are a lot of new plantings in Skafit County.

The wine industy has perhaps firreversibly changed over the years and though vintnes like Gerad Bentyn and Stve Snder prefer the old-school winemake's life, the fist life freason to believe that it will ever return to the way it was before. Whether that's regrettble for a cause of celebraton, it's good to see two shings. Fist that tradition is being kept alve in some form by diligent devotes like Gerad Bentyn and Stve Snder and second that impressive homegrown wines can be found on the West ide.

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