WINEMAKER  Billo Navarane

REGION  The Rock's District (Monette's Vineyard), Walla Walla

GRAPE VARIETY  Grenache

SOIL  Course-grain alluvial sediments consisting of large basalt cobblestones

AGE OF VINES  Planted in 2007

PRODUCTION  948 bottles

VITI/VINI
Primus inter pares or first among equals was a fitting description of the fruit from Monette’s vineyard. Mark and Monette Hoffmeister saw the potential for the Rocks District early and were one of the first to plant. Inspired by them, the brothers purchased 28 acres in the District in 2007. Mark offered to sell them fruit and they jumped at the opportunity. Pre-fermentation maceration of 165 hours and post fermentation maceration of 70 hours. The wine was punched down by hand 3 times per day during macerations and fermentation. All individual components, including free run and press fractions were kept separate until final blending. Elevage on lees for 18 months, 15% once filled French oak and 85% neutral French oak. The wine was neither fined nor racked and remained on its lees until a gentle filtration just before bottling.

PRODUCER
The Navarane brothers, Makrand (Pinto) and Yashodhan (Billo) were born in India and came to the United States in 1974, when they were 7 and 5. Both parents worked to establish themselves economically and in the community. The brothers learned many lessons from these experiences and most profoundly, the importance of hard work and following your heart. In 2007, the brothers formed Rasa Vineyards. Rasa is Sanskrit for ‘essence’ and ‘juice’. The word encapsulates the brothers’ heritage and winemaking philosophy, which is rooted in maximizing the most authentic expression of terroir. Prior to following their passion for wine, life was centered around the Computer Industry. Lucky for them (and us) they made the move, though the qualities that served them in the tech industry, namely an attention to detail, and a high level of organization and thoughtfulness, continue to serve them today. Their 28-acre estate, 9 of which are planted to Syrah as of 2016, is located in the newly established Rocks District of Walla Walla. They are also fortunate to source fruit from the very best and many of the oldest vineyards in the region, specifically DuBrul, Monette and Kiona Vineyards. Practices in the vineyard and winery are minimal and intended to reveal the character of the site.

WHERE  WASHINGTON
WHAT  RED
WHEN  BIG DECISIONS

RASA PRIMUS INTER PARES GRENACHE

You can Latin it up all you want – on the streets it’s simply, ‘top dog’.

CONCEPTUAL DOPPELGANGER
The decision maker in organic societies is usually the one with the most experience, the bona fides and the shoulders to carry the load. Whence born from Rocks, one certainly has the fortitude to shoulder the load and whence raised with attention and focus to mission, one might have the chops to lead by example. So many have tried and most have failed. Rasa Primus Inter Pares is a candidate, and king in the making – there is a fine line between a wannabe and the real thing and that can only be distinguished by personal experience: you know when you are in the company of greatness. Buy and decide – the true ones fear no judgement, for they are pure of heart.

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