

# The Great Places

## SYRAH

BALLARD CANYON AVA

2021

*August James Stolpman*

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### VINEYARD COMPONENTS

6,000 vine/acre own-rooted / head-pruned / pre-clonal  
GREAT PLACES August James Block Syrah

### GRAPE VARIETY

100% pre-clonal Syrah

### ALCOHOL

14%

### VINIFICATION FACTS

100% whole-cluster, 50% in a sealed stainless steel, 50%  
in concrete

### COOPERAGES & ELEVAGE

19 months in neutral 500L French ermitage puncheons  
only used for Roussanne in prior vintages

### HARVEST DATE

October 5

### TOTAL PRODUCTION

160 cases

### SENSORY

The most powerful, concentrated Great Places August James Stolpman to date. Smooth, supple dark nose with subtle spice, stone, olive, and anise. Super focused and pure from an engulfing mid palate through to sweet tannins. Voluptuous to the max, mid palate weight for days, I want to cuddle up with the 2021 Great Places August James and stay warm all night.

### BACKGROUND

In early 2013, after a seminal visit to Domaine Auguste Clape the previous summer, we set out to model a vineyard after Clape's Reynard parcel. We propagated special pre-clonal Syrah cuttings from just 49 vines to 12,000, all head-pruned, own-rooted, and planted so densely that all work must be done by hand. The steep, east-facing hillside produced its first crop, barely 400 pounds of fruit, in 2017, the same year our son August, was born. Those grapes were bottled into 30 x 3 liter bottles so Auggie may drink the wine from his namesake vineyard from not only his birth year, but also his vineyard's birth-year, on special occasions for the rest of his life.

### GREAT PLACES SYRAH

Syrah that makes the cut into our highest tier "The Great Places" brand, hail from just 8 acres of our steepest hillsides where we have taken an approach unprecedented in the New World. First, the pre-clonal strains are wholly unique and selected from 100 year old vineyard sites. Then, this Syrah material is planted own-rooted and head pruned at just 2.5 x 3 feet spacing. Each vine puts all of its energy into ripening 2-3 clusters of concentrated, complex fruit each year. All work is done by hand.

The brand is named after one of our most inspirational Serine parcels in Cote-Rotie "Les Grandes Places".

### VINTAGE

A cold spring led to a moderate summer without significant heat spikes through harvest. Over-all, 2021 harvest arrived late, with traditional reds beginning to hit peak ripeness at the end of September and through October.

Because each Great Places vine must ripen only two or three tiny clusters of grapes, Great Places August James Stolpman harvest arrived relatively early for red grapes in 2021, on October 5th.