

Stolpman

The Great Places

Ruben Solorzano

OWN ROOTED & PRE CLONAL

100% Syrah

195 cases produced



Stolpman's Pre Clonal, Own Rooted Projects

Grape Whisperer, Ruben Solorzano planted the first test vineyard that would pave the way for the other GREAT PLACES vineyards back in 2007. After being inspired while helping Renee Rostaing prune his steep Côte Blonde parcel in Côte Rôtie, Ruben crammed 6,000 pre-clonal Syrah vines onto one beautiful hillside in marching rows of diagonal posts directly above Ballard Creek. This one-acre block, today known as Great Places, Ruben Solorzano, is the founding member of the Great Places Quartet. In 2018, August James was classified, Pete and Jessica Stolpman's eldest son who is named after Auguste Clape of Cornas. In 2022, we finally classified Jessica Lauren, whose vineyard was inspired by the brand's namesake Lieu-Dit "Les Grandes Places" Serine in Côte Rôtie. Finally, August's younger brother, Otto Reynard (Otto's middle name, Reynard means "the fox" and is a famous parcel in Cornas) was classified in 2023. Healthy late season rains pushed back bud-break and the growing season by 3-4 weeks. We escaped the summer without any extreme heat events that would have accelerated ripening. This moderate weather led to even, slow sugar accumulation. October weather warmed up and pushed the vines through the finish line for a smooth, seamless, and plush vintage that still carries plenty of bright energy.

First blush throws an epoch of marbled-steak-smoke, peppercorn, coffee, sangre, and dark wood. The savory wildness screams for elk chops.

With just a second smell, ripe blueberry first peaks on the nose than dominates the front palate of the first sip. Mocha and cream bring further pleasure to the mid palate and fleshes out widely through the finish. After diving deeper into the 2023, the creamy richness expands into cocoa-dusted tiramisu. Fine grain, hard-wood tannin emerges after swallowing. Truly a "wow wine".

Vintage 2023

Region Stolpman Estate Vineyard, Ballard Canyon AVA

Components one acre east facing, pre-clonal, 6,000 vine/acre, head-pruned Ruben Solorzano block

Farming CCOF Organic Certified & Demeter Biodynamic Certified

Harvest Date October 11 & 18

Vinification 100% de-stemmed

Vatting/Fermentation Open top concrete fermenting tanks

Cooperage & Elevage Neutral 500L French Oak Ermitage Mt. La Vache Puncheon

14% Alc by Vol