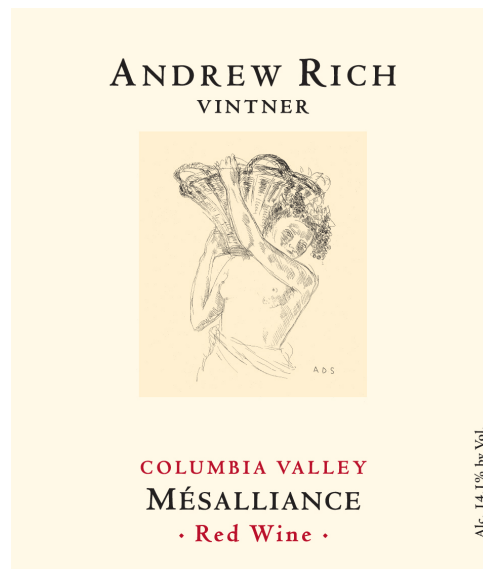


ANDREW RICH WINES

2008 Mésalliance (Columbia Valley)
46% Malbec, 46% Syrah, 8% Petit Verdot

A misalliance (*mésalliance* in French) is a marriage of social unequals. The name came about when I blended 30% Merlot into the '98 Cabernet Sauvignon and could no longer label it varietally. It was my all-too-subtle dig at the inferior Merlot vis-à-vis the noble Cab. In 2005, after a brief hiatus, the Més was resurrected, now, ironically, a Merlot-dominant blend. With the 2008 we are witness to what might be thought of as a third marriage, Malbec and Syrah fully sharing conjugal duties, with just a little Petit Verdot to unite them in holy vinosity.



A deep velvety purple red is extremely enticing. On the nose this is all bright berries and violets, with perhaps a hint of pomegranate. The rich round mid-palate is quite succulent but not at all fat, the briar-fruit flavors accented with chocolate, leading into a moderately long velour finish. Quite suave and very drinkable now, the Malbec's acidity has nicely integrated but should allow the wine to age over the near term.

Vineyards: Mostly Horse Heaven Hills (Malbec) with some Red Mountain (PV)

Alcohol: 14.1%

330 cases produced

Tanzer: 89 points [Nov/Dec 10]

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