

# DeLILLE CELLARS

*Doyenne* GRAND CIEL

**Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate**

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Reviewed by Jeb Dunnuck

## **95** 2011 DeLille Cellars Grand Ciel Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA

*"The 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Ciel (100% Cabernet Sauvignon and aged in 100% new French oak for 20 to 22 months) is still backward and tight, with slightly reticent aromas of graphite, black cherry, blackberry, dark chocolate and singed cedar flowing to a full-bodied, nicely concentrated and structured feel on the palate. Showing mostly structure and tannin at present, it needs 3-4 years in the cellar, and assuming it fleshes out, will have a long life ahead of it. I'd like to see more mid-palate depth at this point, but it's still a superb wine that will have 10-15 years of longevity even on the most conservative side."*

## **95+** 2011 DeLille Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Upchurch Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA

*"One of the top Bordeaux blends in the vintage, the 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Upchurch Vineyard is an awesome bottle of wine that shows uncommon depth and richness in the vintage. Coming from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and made in a structured, age-worthy style, it boasts notes of graphite, black currants, dark chocolate and dried earth to go with a full-bodied, deeply concentrated and tannic profile on the palate. Give it 3-4 years of cellaring and enjoy through 2031. It's one of the more age-worthy wines from this relatively forward, early drinking vintage."*

## **94** 2011 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Syrah Grand Ciel Vineyard

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA,

*"Slightly richer and more concentrated than the Signature Syrah, yet still playing in the elegant, seamless style of the vintage, the 2011 Doyenne Syrah Grand Ciel Vineyard is 100% Syrah that was aged in 35% new French oak. Possessing beautiful black raspberry, currants, licorice, crushed rock-like minerality and hints of graphite, this beauty flows onto the palate with full-bodied richness, fabulous purity of fruit and a seamless, silky texture that carries through the finish. Give it a year or two and drink bottles through 2024."*

## **94** 2011 DeLille Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Four Flags

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA

*"Even better, the 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Four Flags is 100% Cabernet that comes from Red Mountain and is a mix from the Upchurch, Grand Ciel, Ciel du Cheval and Klipsun vineyards. Aged 20 to 22 months in French oak, it offers a full-bodied, elegant, yet classically styled profile to go with notions of cassis, black raspberry, lead pencil shavings and dried spices that show on both the nose and palate. Concentrated and rich, with excellent mid-palate density and building tannin, it nevertheless stays seamless, elegant and perfectly balanced. Give it 2-3 years in the cellar and drink it over the following 10 to 15 years."*

## **94** 2011 DeLille Cellars Harrison Hill

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Snipes Mountain, Washington, USA,

*"Showing awesome complexity (which is one of the hallmarks of this cuvee), the 2011 Harrison Hill is made from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Loaded with notions of cherry blossoms, black currants, mineral, tobacco leaf and chocolate, this full-bodied, seamless and supple effort has a classy, elegant profile that should allow it to evolve gracefully for two decades or more. It's a beautiful 2011 that should not be missed."*

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## **94** 2011 DeLille Cellars Chaleur Estate

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA,

*"The 2011 Chaleur Estate is a gorgeous Bordeaux blend from this estate that does everything right. Made from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it gives up textbook crème de cassis, toast, lead pencil and cedar to go with a full-bodied, rich, layered and seamless style. Gaining richness in the glass, enjoy this concentrated, balanced effort over the coming two decades."*

## **93** 2011 DeLille Cellars D2

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Yakima Valley, & Columbia Valley, Washington, USA,

*"A smoking effort, the 2011 D2 checks in as a blend of 56% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and the balance Petit Verdot. It offers gorgeous black cherry, black currants, tobacco leaf and hints of chocolate to go with a full-bodied, rich, textured and seamless profile on the palate. Showing both richness and elegance, with building fine tannin, it's a rock-star Bordeaux blend that will have 10 to 15 years of longevity."*

## **93** 2011 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Signature Syrah

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from, Red Mountain, Washington, USA,

*"A smoking Syrah, the 2011 Doyenne Signature Syrah (which was co-fermented with 2% Viognier) possesses a pure, incredibly elegant style to go with notions of crème de cassis, blackberry, licorice, liquid flowers and hints of wild herbs. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, balanced and integrated, it can be enjoyed anytime over the coming decade."*

## **92** 2011 DeLille Cellars Doyenne AIX

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Yakima Valley, Washington, USA,

*"A Provençal styled blend of 71% Syrah and 29% Cabernet Sauvignon that comes all from Red Mountain, the 2011 Doyenne Aix has beautiful richness and texture in the vintage, with ample black raspberry, blackberry, licorice, toast and hints of meatiness all flowing to a clean, beautifully balanced and overall elegant wine that will have 10 - 12 years of overall longevity. Seemingly outstanding in every vintage, it represents a superb value and is well worth checking out."*

## **92** 2012 DeLille Cellars Chaleur Estate Blanc

A Proprietary Blend Dry White Table wine from Columbia Valley, Washington, USA,

*"One of the top white Bordeaux blends coming out of the US today, the 2012 Chaleur Estate Blanc is a 100% barrel-fermented blend of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Semillon. It gives up exotic lychee nut, citrus blossom, melon and honeycomb to go with a medium to full-bodied, textured and rich style on the palate that keeps you coming back to the glass. Loaded with sweet fruit and showing fantastic length, as well as a clean, dry finish, enjoy this beauty over the coming 4 - 5 years."*

## **91** 2011 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Métier

A Proprietary Dry Red Table wine from Yakima Valley, Washington, USA,

*"Looking at their Doyenne releases (Rhône blends), the 2011 Doyenne Métier is a mix of 40% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre and 25% Syrah that offers up a Cotes du Rhône-like bouquet of garrigue, licorice, kirsch and assorted spices with a medium to full-bodied, supple and layered profile on the palate. Up-front and ready-to-go, enjoy this outstanding blend over the coming 5 - 6 years."*

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## **90** 2012 DeLille Cellars Rosé

A Proprietary Blend Dry Rosé Table wine from Yakima Valley, Washington, USA,  
*"An outstanding rosé, the 2012 Doyenne Rosé sports a light-salmon color to go with Provencal styled aromas and flavors of strawberries, cherry blossom and Herbs de Provence. Medium-bodied, rounded and supple, with excellent fruit and good texture, it has the freshness to stand on its own, but will be best on the dinner table. Drink it over the coming year."*

## **Evaluated in Barrel**

### **(94-96)** 2012 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Syrah Grand Ciel Vineyard

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA,  
*"Even more impressive, the 2012 Doyenne Syrah Grand Ciel Vineyard gives up layers of black and blue fruits, violets and spice to go with a medium to full-bodied, fabulously pure, concentrated and structured profile. It should benefit from short-term cellaring and have 15 years of overall longevity."*

### **(93-96)** 2012 DeLille Cellars Chaleur Estate

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA,  
*"Showing a similar level of purity and precision, the 2012 Chaleur Estate is a serious, classy effort that exhibits ample purple fruits, violets and assorted wild herb-like qualities to go with a beautifully concentrated, rich and textured profile on the palate. It has nothing out of place, serious mid-palate depth and building, fine-grained tannin that emerge on the finish. Given the purity of fruit, I suspect it will be approachable on release, yet should nevertheless benefit from 3 - 4 years of cellaring and have two decades of overall longevity."*

### **(94-96)** 2012 DeLille Cellars Harrison Hill

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Snipes Mountain, Washington, USA,  
*"The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Harrison Hill continues to show the quality of this unique site. Beautiful all around, with fabulous purity of fruit and a layered, seamless character, it exhibits notions of crème de cassis, lead pencil shavings, tobacco leaf and edgy minerality. Full-bodied and slightly more fruit-driven than previous vintages (prior vintages showed a slightly more feral/wild character at this point), it will drink reasonably well on release, yet have 15 years of prime drinking."*

### **(91-94)** 2012 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Aix

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA,  
*"The estate's Provençal-styled release, 2012 Doyenne Aix is a 60/40 blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon that offers full-bodied richness and depth to go with perfumed aromas of garrigue, tobacco, violets and assorted dark fruits. Made in a voluptuous, up-front style, with rocking fruit, this beauty will be approachable on release and have 12 - 15 years of overall longevity."*

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### **(91-93) 2012 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Signature Syrah**

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Yakima Valley, Washington, USA,

*"The 2012 Doyenne Signature Syrah sports a dark-purple color to go with mineral-laced aromas of blackberry, violets, crushed rock and graphite. Full-bodied, voluptuous and decadent in style, it shows the vintage's purity and fruit-forward style beautifully. It should be approachable on release and have 10-12 years of longevity, possibly more."*

### **(90-92) 2013 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Roussanne**

A Proprietary Dry White Table wine from Red Mountain, Washington, USA,

*"Tasted out of barrel, the 2013 Doyenne Roussanne should easily be an outstanding effort. Exhibiting plenty of stone fruits, lemon curd and white flowers, it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity and an overall beautifully focused feel. It will drink nicely on release and evolve gracefully for 5 - 7 years."*

### **(90-92) 2012 DeLille Cellars Malbec**

A Proprietary Dry Red Table wine from Yakima Valley, Washington, USA,

*"The 2012 Malbec also has outstanding potential. Aged in 50% new oak, it gives up rich, full flavored aromas of dark fruits, chocolate, earth and sweet oak to go with a full-bodied, rounded and overall fresh personality. Possessing vibrant acidity and plenty of tannin, it too should have around a decade of longevity."*

### **(89-92) 2012 DeLille Cellars Doyenne Métier**

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Yakima Valley, Washington, USA,

*"The 2012 Doyenne Métier offers up a Rhone-like profile of dark fruits, pepper, ground herbs and mineral to go with a medium to full-bodied, rich and rounded feel on the palate. A blend of 39% Grenache, 39% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah and 2% Cinsault, it should end up an outstanding wine and have just under a decade of longevity."*