

Jeb Dunnuck's THE RHONE REPORT

2007 Westerhold Family Vineyards Syrah Westerhold Vineyard	Red	95+
2008 Westerhold Family Vineyards Syrah Westerhold Vineyard	Red	95

WESTERHOLD FAMILY VINEYARDS

Made by Russell Bevan, these classic Syrahs possess northern Rhône styled aromatics (pepper, game, bacon) to go with brilliant concentration and perfectly balanced palates. While approachable now, these serious wines will handsomely reward cellar time.

Website: www.westerholdwines.com

2007 Westerhold Family Vineyards Syrah Westerhold Vineyard (USA, California, North Coast, Bennett Valley) **\$42**

Very focused and pure, with gorgeous layers of blackberry, white pepper, bacon, violets, and gamey nuances, the 2007 Westerhold Family Vineyards Syrah Westerhold Vineyard, aged for 18 months in new French oak, is medium to full-bodied, beautifully concentration and focused on the palate. Showing a decidedly cool climate feel, with racy acidity and firm structure and tannin, yet with serious concentration and ripe fruit, this thrilling Syrah should improve with 2-3 years of bottle age, and have 12-15 years or more of longevity. **(95+ pts.)**

2008 Westerhold Family Vineyards Syrah Westerhold Vineyard (USA, California, North Coast, Bennett Valley) **\$42**

More plush and full than the '07, with a serious core of ripe fruit, yet with the same underlying structure and depth, the 2008 Westerhold Family Vineyards Syrah Westerhold Vineyard boast thrilling levels of mineral-drenched blackberry fruit, smoked meat, leather, ground pepper, violet, and graphite on the nose. This leads to a perfectly balanced, full-bodied, voluptuous Syrah that shows brilliant focus and purity, with substantial, yet fine tannin kicking in on the finish. I'm a huge fan and while approachable now, it should be given 1-2 years of bottle age, and then consumed over the following decade or longer. **(95 pts.)**