

2014 Sleight Of Hand The Conjurer

Giving up lots of leafy herbs, graphite, licorice and dark fruits, the 2014 The Conjurer is a charming, supple, straightforward blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Cabernet Franc, 12% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot that's ideal for drinking over the coming 5-6 years.

This property, located in Walla Walla, is run by Trey Busch, with help from assistant winemaker Keith Johnson. While I've always loved the wines from these guys, they've hit a new level recently, and these wines are now up with the creme de la creme of the state (and beyond).

- Jeb Dunnuck (March, 2016)

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2014 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Les Collines Block 50

Scheduled to be bottled in November, after two years in barrel, the flat out sensational 2014 Syrah Les Collines Block 50 (Name TBD) was fermented with 100% whole clusters and aged all in older French oak barrels. Deep, rich and concentrated, with black, black fruits, pepper, dried violets and gunpowder aromas and flavors, it has awesome mid-palate depth, building tannin and awesome purity. I don't think there's much of this to go around, but it's up with the crème de la crème of the vintage.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand The Archimage

Tasted out of barrel and a mix of 53% Cabernet Franc and 47% Merlot, the 2014 The Archimage has a gorgeous floral character as well as lots of red and black berry fruits, spice and underbrush characteristics. Full-bodied, layered, beautifully concentrated, yet always fresh and lively, it should be the finest vintage of the cuvee to date.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand Chardonnay The Enchantress

The only white presented, the 2014 Chardonnay The Enchantress comes all from the Wente Clone and vines planted in 1978. It sees partial malolactic fermentation and just a touch of batonnage. Elegant, fresh and lively, with bright acidity giving lift to notions of apple and green citrus aromas and flavors, it picks up a touch of brioche and oak with time in the glass, is nicely balanced and has a great finish. Drink it over the coming 2-3 years.

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**2013 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Lewis Vineyard
Extended**

Another insanely good barrel sample is the 2013 Syrah Lewis Vineyard Extended, which will see a longer elevage in thicker staved barrels. Reminding me of Guigal's la Turque Cote Rotie with its meaty, vanilla bean, crème de cassis and graphite bouquet, it has incredible purity, full-bodied richness and fabulous tannin quality. While they like to include some whole cluster with their Syrahs, they opted to completely de-stem this cuvee, as they feel that this site can impart green notes. Either way, this is a blockbuster that will be one of the top Syrahs in the vintage.

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**2015 Sleight Of Hand Cabernet Franc Rose
The Magician's Assistant**

Made all from Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Cabernet Franc Rose The Magician's Assistant is clean, crisp and refreshing, with lots of cherry blossom and herbes de Provence-like aromas and flavors.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Levitation

Already bottled and 100% Syrah that saw 40% whole clusters, the 2014 Syrah Levitation is a ripe, sexy, full-bodied beauty that's loaded with black and blue fruits, pepper, licorice and savory herb aromas and flavors. Despite the masses of fruit, it has solid underlying structure and will cruise for a decade or more.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand The Illusionist

The first vintage to include Merlot, the 2014 The Illusionist checks in as a blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Merlot. The idea with the Merlot was to soften the profile slightly, and the Merlot was the best two barrels in the winery. It is a seamless, full-bodied, incredible looking barrel sample that has pure, layered notes of cassis, graphite, blue fruits and toasted spice notes that continue to change with time in the glass. Give it a few years of bottle age and enjoy it through 2034.

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2013 Sleight Of Hand The Illusionist

A blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and the balance Petit Verdot, aged 21 months in 61% new French oak, the 2013 The Illusionist has a beautiful perfume of black cherries, currants, lead pencil and leafy herbs to go with a medium to full-bodied, rich, yet elegant and lively style on the palate. This is a high quality 2013 that has ripe tannin, good mid-palate depth and will drink nicely for a decade or more.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand Syrah The Psychedelic

Another full-throttle, downright sexy wine is the 2014 Syrah The Psychedelic. Made from 100% Syrah that was fermented with 50% whole clusters and aged in a scant 10% new French oak (and never racked), it has loads of ripe dark fruits, lavender, peppered meat and olive to go with rock-solid concentration, sweet tannin and a killer finish. It's already hard to resist and I see no need to delay gratification.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand Grenache The Sorceress

The 100% Grenache 2014 Grenache The Sorceress is an elegant, savory effort that has classic Grenache notes of kirsch, dried spices, herbes de Provence and licorice to go with a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated feel on the palate. There's a touch of dry tannin, but it's still outstanding and will drink well for 4-6 years.

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2014 Sleight Of Hand The Spell Binder

A blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, the 2014 The Spell Binder has lots of leafy herbs, olive, earth and black currant characteristics in a plump, medium to full-bodied, charming, even sexy style. It should drink nicely for 5-6 years, probably longer.

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2013 Sleight Of Hand The Archimage

The 2013 The Archimage (56% Cabernet Franc, 38% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc) shows a darker, smoky edge, with more black olive, ripe black fruits and graphite emerging with time in the glass. Like a lot of 2013s, it lacks a huge back-end level of concentration, yet has medium to full-bodied richness, excellent purity and ripe tannin, all suggesting it will drink well for a decade.

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