



**(93 - 95)**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Malbec Scooteny Flats

One of the most impressive Malbecs I was able to taste for this report, the 2013 Malbec Scooteny Flats (the final name is still TBD) comes all from the Scooteny Flats vineyard on Red Mountain and will see 50% new oak and bottling only in magnum. It's inky purple color is followed by drop-dead gorgeous notes of black and blue fruits, liquid violets, crushed rock and graphite. This is followed by a layered, full-bodied red that has fabulous concentration, building, sweet tannin and a great finish. It's showing its oak elevation at the moment, but I expect this to completely integrate by the time it's in bottle. Bravo to the team here for a rockin' bottle of wine!

- **Jeb Dunnuck (May, 2015)**

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**92**

### 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.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (May, 2016)**

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**(94 - 97)**

### 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 elevation 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.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (May, 2016)**

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**91**

### 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.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (May, 2016)**

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**92**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Grenache The Sorceress

Trey continues to be a jack-of-all-trades and excels with just about every variety, even the more temperamental Grenache. His 2013 Grenache The Sorceress, which incorporates 20% Syrah, exhibits impressive blackberry, kirsch, damp earth, truffle and peppery notes, medium to full-bodied, richness, and a supple, sexy personality. Aged 11 months in 20% new French oak, it's one of the best examples of this cuvee to date, and will drink nicely for another 7-8 years.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2015)**

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**93+**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Levitation

More focused, straight and elegant than The Psychedelic release, the 2013 Syrah Levitation is a more classically styled Syrah that offers pretty violet, smoked black fruits, earth and hints of chocolate. Full-bodied, ripe, layered and balanced, I like its mid-palate depth and it should age gracefully. Give it a year or two in the cellar and enjoy bottles through 2025.

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**94**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Syrah The Psychedelic

A blend of 100% Syrah, the 2013 Syrah The Psychedelic is a sensational effort that comes all from the Stoney Vine Vineyard in Walla Walla, which is in the Rock region. It offers lots of mulled black fruits, olive, smoked duck and lavender nuances to go with a full-bodied, hedonistic, big, ripe, hedonistic personality that never comes across as over the top or heavy. Replacing the Funkadelic release, enjoy this beauty through 2023.

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**91**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand The Conjurer

The 2013 The Conjurer is a smoking blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc and 15% Merlot that spent 11 months in 15% new French oak (some being larger oak tanks). It's a beautiful wine with lots of dark fruits, charcoal, spring flowers and sappy herb-like aromatics. These give way to a medium to full-bodied, pure, elegant and fresh red that's ideal for drinking over the coming 8-10 years. It's a killer value.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2015)**

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**90**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Riesling The Magician

Made from 100% Riesling that wasn't harvested until October, the 2013 Riesling Magician is an impressive, outstanding effort that gives up plenty of juicy citrus, lime and hints of lychee, and subtle minerality in its medium-bodied, lively and refreshing personality. Showing just a hint of sweetness on the finish, it will be versatile on the dinner table and drink nicely for 2-3 years. Created in 2007, and located outside of Walla Walla, Sleight of Hand is run by Trey Busch. He continues to produce rich, concentrated wines that never lack for character. His 2011s are solid (especially in the vintage), but his 2012s are a step up and should be the finest vintage yet for this estate. Tel. (509) 386-6566; [www.sofhcellars.com](http://www.sofhcellars.com)

- Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2014)

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**90**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Chardonnay The Enchantress

Trey's 2013 Chardonnay The Enchantress is one of the few outstanding Chardonnay's coming from Washington. It offers classic white peach, apple and citrus notes to go with a clean, crisp, nicely focused and refreshing style on the palate. Drink it over the coming 2-3 years.

- Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2015)

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**89**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand Cabernet Franc Rose The Magician's Assistant

In addition to his reds and whites, Trey makes a serious rose. Coming from a direct press of Cabernet Franc, the 2013 The Magician's Assistant Rose possesses a light pink/salmon color to go with crisp, refreshing Provencal-styled aromas and flavors of herbs de Provence, cherry blossom and strawberries. Medium-bodied, beautifully made, crisp and refreshing, enjoy it over the coming summer months. Created in 2007, and located outside of Walla Walla, Sleight of Hand is run by Trey Busch. He continues to produce rich, concentrated wines that never lack for character. His 2011s are solid (especially in the vintage), but his 2012s are a step up and should be the finest vintage yet for this estate. Tel. (509) 386-6566; [www.sofhcellars.com](http://www.sofhcellars.com)

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**91**

### 2013 Sleight Of Hand The Spell Binder

Functioning as the second wine of The Conjuror, the 2013 The Spell Binder is a blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot, yet also incorporates Syrah and other varieties. Aged 10 months in neutral oak, it has beautiful cassis, blackberry, spring flower, and lead pencil shaving nuances to go with a vibrant, forward, medium to full-bodied profile on the palate. It's straight up delicious and will drink nicely for 4-6 years. It's a killer value!

- Jeb Dunnuck (May, 2015)

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