



**93**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand The Funkadelic Syrah

After initially intending on blending the contents of what became Sleight of Hand's 2010 Syrah Funkadelic into their Levitation (which also receives some of the Funk Vineyard fruit), Busch decided not only that its influence on that blend would be too dominant, but also – quite rightly – that there were the makings here of 160 cases of spectacular, separate single-vineyard wine that was co-fermented with 2% Viognier and, like its immediate predecessor, incorporated around one-third whole clusters. Strikingly perfumed with flowers and high-toned herbal essences as well as fresh black fruits, this comes to the palate impressively rich, dense, and finely tannic, loaded with cassis, fresh dark cherry as well as Cornas-like calf's liver larded with bacon. Persistent inner-mouth perfume; brown spices; and espresso roast are mingled with mouthwateringly savory...

- David Schildknecht (December, 2012)

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**89**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand The Magician

The 2010 Magician is a blend of 85% Gewurztraminer and 15% Riesling fermented and raised in stainless steel and finished with a bare touch of sweetness. Pear, apple, peach, and apricot aromas with a touch of baking spices inform the nose of this crisp, savory, spicy effort. Drink this excellent value over the next 2-3 years. Sleight of Hand Cellars began in 2007 coming out of the chute with some superb values, wines which are easy to spot on retail shelves because of their bright, magician-themed labels. There are two white wines among the current releases. Tel. (509) 386-6566; [www.softcellars.com](http://www.softcellars.com)

- Jay S Miller (August, 2011)

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**90**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand Chardonnay The Enchantress

Sourced from 1978 plantings at the French Creek vineyard of Jon Martinez (for more about which see under Martinez's own label, Maison Bleue, in this report), Sleight of Hand's 2010 Chardonnay Old Vines The Enchantress is a model for its genre – barrel-fermented, partial malo – and as impressive as any Chardonnay I tasted this year from Washington. Lees-stirring in used barriques has conveyed a subtly seductive creaminess that in no way fights with juicy lime, tangerine, and apple, while hints of musk and brown spice typical for old Wente Selection vines add interest, and a long, sappy finish preserves simultaneous lees-enhanced richness and sheer refreshment. It will be interesting to discover what this does with a few years in bottle, but, tentatively, I would plan to drink most of any I bought within two years. Given Sleight of Hand's garish magic...

- David Schildknecht (December, 2012)

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**92+**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand Petit Verdot Fifth Element

Also bottled only in magnum and paired with the 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon The Black Circle as a two pack, the 2010 Petit Verdot Fifth Element is made from 100% Petit Verdot and comes from the Blue Mountain Vineyard in the northern part of the Walla Walla Valley. Aged 20 months in neutral oak, its inky black color is followed by a masculine, dense bouquet of black fruits, crushed stone, charcoal, tobacco and smoke. This gives way to massive, full-bodied wine that has off the charts extraction, a great texture and a serious amount of tannin that emerges through the mid-palate and finish. Backwards, dense and impenetrable, it is a serious effort that will require a serious chunk of bottle age to become civilized. I'm impressed and can't wait to see how it evolves over the coming decade. Drink 2015-2030. Winemaker Trey Busch has produced a bevy of brilliant...

- Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2013)

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**92**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Levitation

More serious, rich and textured, the 2010 Syrah Levitation, a multi-vineyard 100% Syrah that spent 20 months in 20% new French oak, is inky purple in color and offers up a deep, backwards bouquet of smoked blackberry-like fruits, pen ink, hints of herbs and wet slate-like minerality. Full-bodied and loaded with fruit on the palate, it nevertheless stays beautifully pure and fresh, with solid acidity and focus carrying through the finish. Already delicious, yet benefitting from a decant, it's a rock solid Syrah that will impress for upwards of a decade. Drink now-2020. Winemaker Trey Busch has produced a bevy of brilliant 2010s and 2011s that make the most of the cool vintages. Leaning more towards the leaner, more focused side of the spectrum, his 2010s are easily the most traditional wines I've tasted from him, and while they will delight Old World wine lovers, they...

- **Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2013)**

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**91+**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand The Archimage

More earthy and gamey, the 2010 The Archimage checks in a blend of 45% Cabernet Franc, 43% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot. Aged 20 months in 50% new French oak, it delivers a wild, Cabernet Franc-dominated profile with loads of chocolate covered red and black fruits, wild herbs, tobacco and damp earth all showing on the nose. Deep, rich and layered on the palate, with a medium to full-bodied, elegant texture, lip smacking levels of acidity and quality tannin on the finish, it will benefit from short-term cellaring and drink nicely for upwards of a decade. I'd like to see more mid-palate depth here, but there's no denying the overall quality. Drink now-2020. Winemaker Trey Busch has produced a bevy of brilliant 2010s and 2011s that make the most of the cool vintages. Leaning more towards the leaner, more focused side of the...

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**95**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand Cabernet Sauvignon The Black Circle

A new release that's 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from Scooteneys Flats Vineyard in Red Mountain, the 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Black Circle was fermented in stainless steel and then aged 20 months in two new French oak barrels. Bottled only in magnum and sold as a two pack with the Petit Verdot Fifth Element, it's a full-throttle, awesome Cabernet and oozes aromas and flavors of creme de cassis, wild herbs, graphite, spring flowers and edgy minerality. Inky purple in color and tasting like a barrel sample, with massive extract, incredible purity and a seamless, yet decadent texture, it possesses a massive amount of tannin on the finish and needs a solid 4-5 years or more of bottle age to round into shape. Brilliant on all accounts, it will have two decades or more of longevity! Drink 2016-2030. Winemaker Trey Busch has produced a bevy of brilliant 2010s and...

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**93+**

### 2010 Sleight Of Hand The Illusionist

One of the most impressive and age worthy of the 2010 lineup, the 2010 The Illusionist is a smoking blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc that was aged 20 months in 60% new French oak. Deep, awesomely pure and drenched in minerality, it offers up notions of smoked black and blue fruits, herb, chocolate, graphite and layers of crushed stone to go with a medium to full-bodied, energetic and lively texture on the palate that carries superb richness, integrated acidity and masses of finely polished tannin. Not a blockbuster and with a traditional, almost old school feel, this beauty will benefit from 2-3 years in the cellar and impress for 12-15 years. Drink 2015-2025. Winemaker Trey Busch has produced a bevy of brilliant 2010s and 2011s that make the most of the cool vintages. Leaning more towards the leaner, more focused...

- **Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2013)**

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