



**(93 - 95)**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Flip Side**

A wine that was still in barrel at the time of this tasting, the 2012 Syrah Flip Side comes all from the Lewis Vineyard and is 100% Syrah that will be bottled only in Magnum. Already perfumed and complex, it has a slight funkiness to go with classic Washington State Syrah aromas and flavors of black raspberry, blackberry, ground pepper, bacon fat and hints of truffle. Medium to full-bodied, elegant and seamless, this puppy hits the palate with no hard edges, superb mid-palate depth and building, fine tannin on the finish. Count me a fan, and it will have upwards of 10-12 years of longevity. 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...

**- Jeb Dunnuck (June, 2014)**

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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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**93**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand The Archimage**

The best vintage for this cuvee to date, there are 775 cases of the 2012 The Archimage (49% Cabernet Franc, 48% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon). It offers classic blackcurrants, graphite, leafy herbs and hints of charred meats to go with a full-bodied, supple, layered and beautifully pure profile on the palate. Seeing 20 months in 39% new French oak, it has enough mid-palate depth and fine tannin on the finish to evolve for 10-15 years.

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**(93 - 95)**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand Cabernet Sauvignon The Black Circle**

Bottled only in magnum, the 2012 Black Circle is 100% Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon that's still aging in 100% new French oak at the moment. Showing classic Red Mountain flair with its savory, masculine, mineral laced profile, it offers plenty of black currants, dried flowers and hints of chocolate to go with a medium to full-bodied, structured and nicely concentrated feel on the palate. It will need short-term cellaring once released, yet evolve gracefully for two decades or more. 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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**90**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand The Conjurer**

Trey's entry level Bordeaux blend that has impressive Cabernet grip and structure, the 2012 The Conjurer Columbia Valley is a solid value that gives up plenty of black currants, graphite, lead pencil and leafy herbs in its medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated and classically styled profile. Made from 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Cabernet Franc and 24% Merlot that spent 11 months in 20% new French oak (a combination of small and larger barrels), it will have over a decade of longevity. 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

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**88**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand Riesling The Magician**

Starting off the whites, the 2012 Riesling The Magician is composed of 100% Riesling that comes from the Evergreen Vineyard which is located just off of the Columbia River. Very lively and fresh, with notions of lychee, star fruit and tangerine, it is a medium-bodied, juicy and crowd-pleasing effort that is very well made. Enjoy it over the coming handful of years. Drink now-2015. 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 have ample texture and richness, and are all around classy wines. The majority of them will benefit from short-term cellaring. More up-front and near term efforts, Trey's 2011s show...

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**89**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand Chardonnay The Enchantress**

A classy white that comes from the French Creek vineyard and spent 11 months in neutral oak, the 2012 Chardonnay The Enchantress exhibits lively tropical fruits, honeyed toast and hints of minerality to go with a straightforward, balanced and racy profile on the palate. Drink it over the coming couple of 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

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**89**

**2012 Sleight Of Hand Cabernet Franc Rose The Magician's Assistant**

The 2012 Rose The Magician's Assistant is a unique rose made from 100% Cabernet Franc. Coming all from the Blackrock Vineyard and light salmon in color, it seems almost Provencal in style at first, with crisp melon, mineral, orange rind and spice qualities showing on the nose, yet turns surprisingly savory and herbal on the palate, with crisp acidity, good fruit and plenty of length. Interesting and certainly worth the price of admission, it will be versatile on the dinner table and drink nicely for 1-2 years. Drink now-2014. 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 have ample texture and richness, and are...

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**92**

### 2012 Sleight Of Hand Grenache The Sorceress

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The 2012 Grenache The Sorceress is floral and red fruit-driven, with loads of kirsch, strawberry, dried spice and rose petal-like aromas and flavors. Beautifully textured and downright creamy (it has more than a little polish), this medium to full-bodied, balanced effort has no hard edges and a terrific finish. Hard to resist now, it should evolve gracefully for 5 to 7 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)

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**93**

### 2012 Sleight Of Hand The Illusionist

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The Cabernet Sauvignon dominated 2012 The Illusionist, which incorporates 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, is another straight-up brilliant effort from this team. Crème de cassis, smoked herbs, lead pencil shavings and hints of licorice all give way to a full-bodied, ripe, concentrated and balanced Cabernet that has the purity and texture to drink well in its youth, yet the class and depth to evolve for 15 years.

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**94**

### 2012 Sleight Of Hand Syrah Levitation

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Kicking off the 2012s and my favorite vintage to date, the 2012 Syrah Levitation is a blockbuster-styled effort that possesses fantastic creme de cassis, blackberry, licorice, graphite and crushed flower-like aromas and flavors. Full bodied, balanced and awesomely textured on the palate, with integrated acidity and building, sweet tannin on the finish, this is the real deal and will dish out loads of pleasure over the coming 7-8 years, possibly longer. 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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