

OREGON WINE



PORTLAND

SYMPOSIUM

MHT: MINI HEAD TRAINED VINES

A Study in Terroir-Based Training Forms

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Delmas | SJR Vineyard

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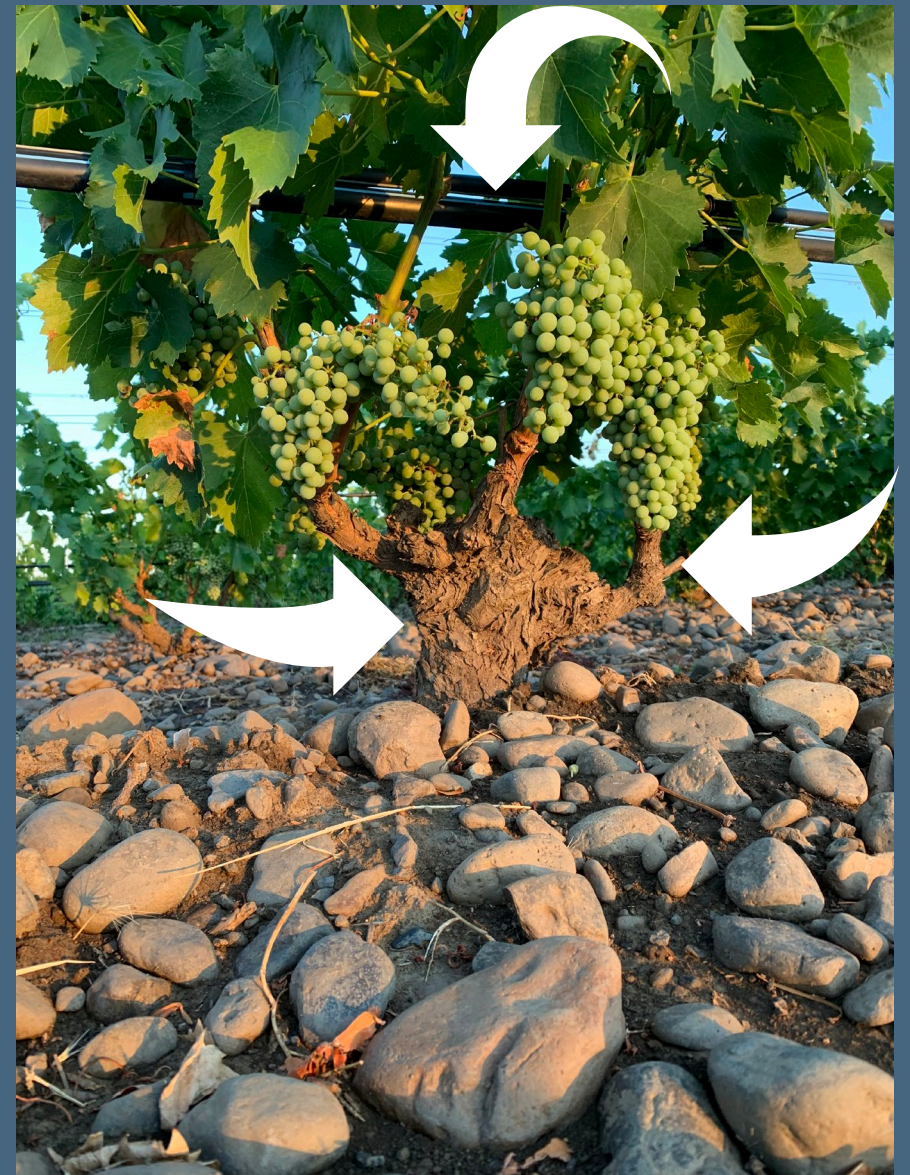
The Rocks District

- Alluvial fan from river system
- Bench influence
- Low elevation (comparatively)
- Heat accumulation



Structure of the Vine

- A low trunk with an open head
- Surrounded by 4-5 spur positions
- Drip line at 24"
- Ability to bury entire vine (trunk, head, and first few bud positions) up to 18"
- Fruit zone free and clear (no clumping)



Why are we doing this?

- Challenges of the region
- Varietals grown
- Susceptibility to freeze damage
- Fruit quality; Showcasing PLACE



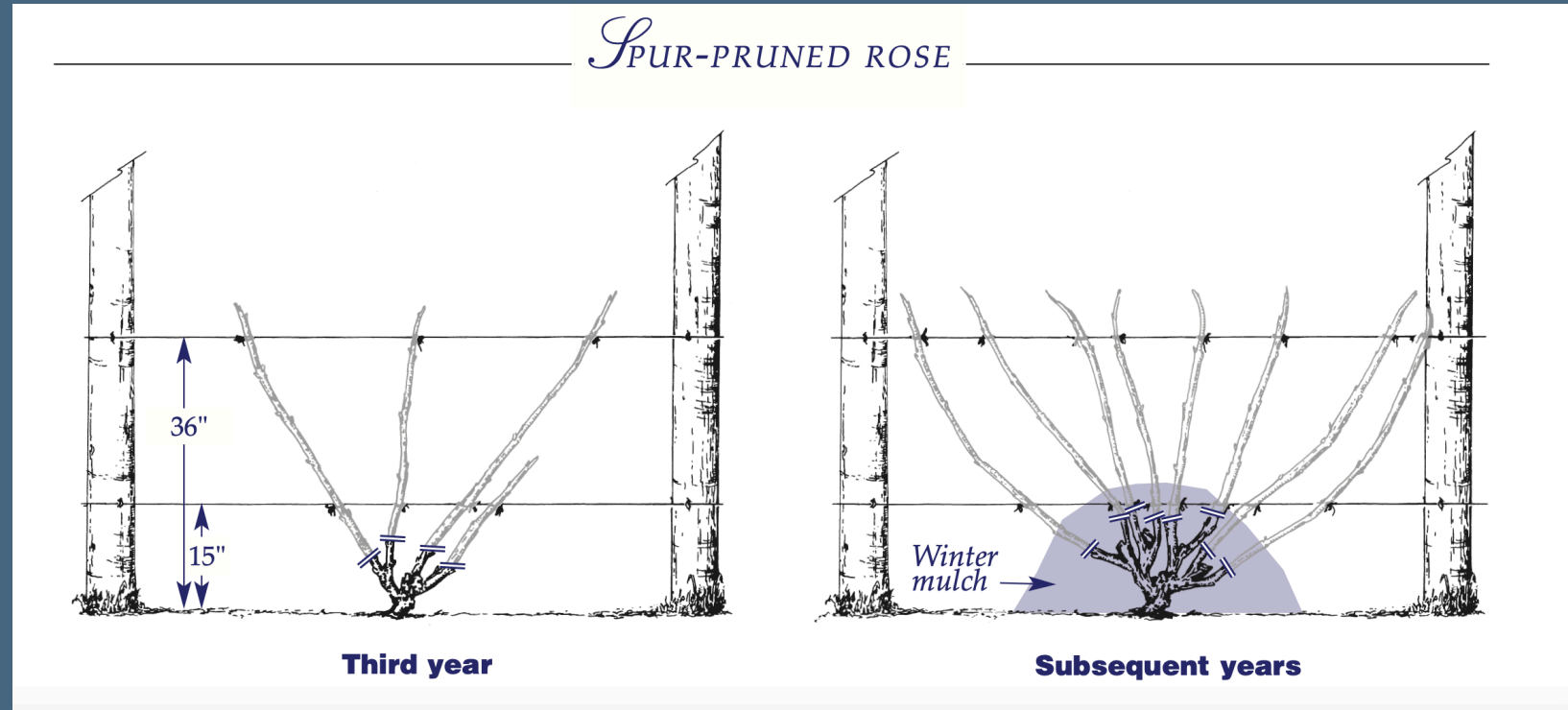
Inspiration

- Old World training forms – longest lived vines
- CA heritage – Head Trained
- Deeper rooted, still yielding



Inspiration

- Rose bushes buried in the MidWest
- Canadian influence
- True expression of *Terroir*



University of Wisconsin Extension: Growing Grapes in Wisconsin, article A1656.
Author(s) Teryl R. Roper, Daniel L. Mahr, Patricia S. McManus, Brian R. Smith.
Revised 2006.



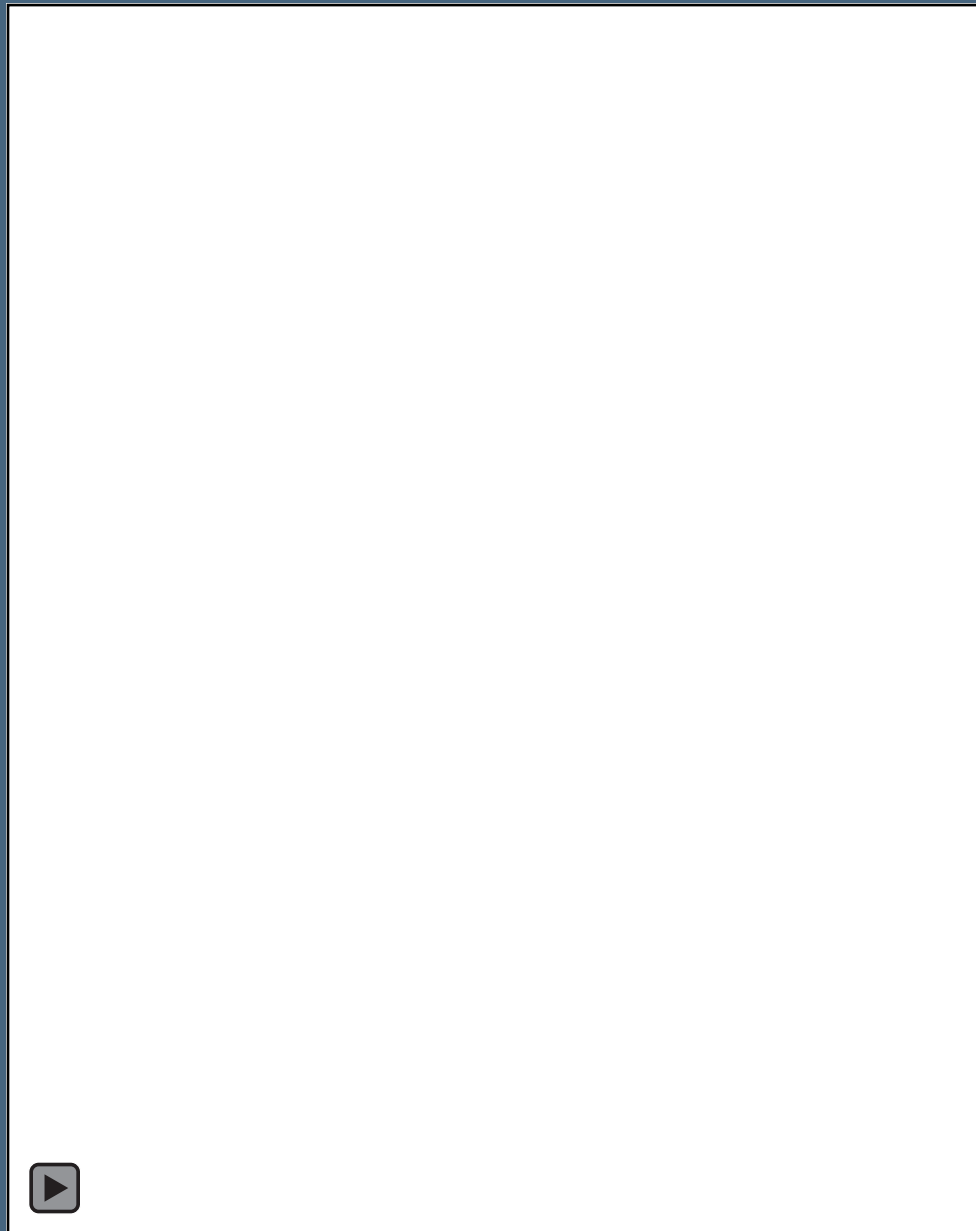
Challenges: Soil & Equipment

- Rocks District “soil”
- Climactic changes - extreme weather occuring more frequently
- Equipment difficulties – finding the correct implements



How does burial work?

- Plow & disc to move dirt up vine structure (18" ideally)
- Reverse plow to de-hill
- Clemens weed-knife to remove soil in between vines



Benefits: Air Flow & Light

- Open head structure, allowing for more air flow, less fruit clumping
- Consistent dappled light exposure throughout the growing season
- Closer exposure to the Rocks, increasing daily temps and furthering ripening
- Less water requirements



Making it work

- Mostly mechanized, alleviating hand labor to accomplish post harvest
- Burial canes more expensive, more labor intensive
- More sustainable in order to achieve a permanent wood structure



Thank you!

**Come out and see us in
The Rocks District**

<http://delmaswines.com>

