



2013 Heritage Series Merlot

Wahluke Slope, WA

Cases produced:	98
Vineyard:	Desert Wind Vineyard
Appellation:	Wahluke Slope, WA
Harvested:	September 2013
Fermentation:	Fermented in open top oak barrels with punch downs and extended maceration
Blend:	95% Merlot, 5% Petite Verdot
Final #s:	Alcohol 14.9 % • TA 0.75 g/100ml pH 3.35 • RS .05 g /100ml
Release Date:	June 2015

Winemaker's Notes

This 2013 Merlot is the first vintage of our Heritage Series Merlot wines. This wine was fermented in oak barrels (with heads removed) and punched down by hand. Afterwards, the heads of the barrels were put back on, and the wine was aged on the skins. This process, known as "extended maceration", softens the tannins and builds up the mouthfeel. The wine opens with aromas of blackberry, blueberry, and nutmeg. The palate displays flavors of raspberry and hazelnut, culminating in a long, velvety finish. Enjoy now or cellar for the next ten years.

Vineyard Notes

The Wahluke Slope is located in Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley. The site is considered Zone 3, the hottest in the region. Our 480-acre vineyard is a southern facing block with a two percent slope and shallow, rocky soil. The vines are irrigated with an underground drip system; double catch wires are used to increase air circulation during the growing season. Leaf pulling and cluster thinning are important steps in aiding the ripening of the grapes.

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