

DESERT WIND

2013 Merlot Wahluke Slope, WA

Cases produced:	1736
Vineyard:	Desert Wind Vineyard
Appellation:	Wahluke Slope, WA
Harvested:	September 2013
Fermentation:	Closed top fermentation with circulations two-three times per day; eight-ten days of skin contact.
Blend:	99% Merlot, 1% other reds
Final #s:	Alcohol 14.5 % • TA 0.68 g/100ml pH 3.50 • RS .05 g /100ml
Release Date:	December 2014
UPC:	768154231687

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2013 growing season was perfectly balanced with warm days and cool nights. This allowed our Merlot grapes to achieve ideal ripeness without excessive sugars. After fermentation was complete, only the "free run" wine, which has soft, velvety tannins, was used for this Merlot. The wine was aged for nine months in older barrels, so as to not impart too much of an oak flavor, which would mask this wine's lovely aromatics. The 2013 Desert Wind Merlot displays aromas of blackberry and violet, with flavors of fig, plum, and chocolate that end in a sultry, smooth finish. Enjoy now or cellar for five to seven 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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2258 Wine Country Road – Prosser, Washington 99350
www.desertwindwinery.com