

# DESERT WIND

## 2015 MERLOT

**Cases produced:** 788  
**Vineyard:** Desert Wind Vineyard  
**Appellation:** Wahluke Slope, WA  
**Harvested:** September-October 2015  
**Fermentation:** Closed top fermentation with circulations two-three times per day; fifteen to eighteen days of skin contact.  
**Blend:** 86% Merlot, 14% Barbera  
**Final #s:** Alcohol 13.9 % • TA 0.63 g/100ml • pH 3.83  
**UPC:** 768154231687

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2015 growing season was exceptionally warm, on the back of record breaking heat in 2014 in eastern Washington's Wahluke Slope. Excellent farming, and a balanced crop load led to ripe and rich wines, while still managing to provide balance and silky tannins. Our 2015 Desert Wind Merlot displays aromas and flavors of fig, plum, blackberry, and chocolate, leading to a tannic, yet round and supple finish. Our Merlot is enjoyable on a warm summer day with barbecued meats and vegetables, or simply as a great glass of wine before dinner. Enjoy now, though will be rewarded with several more years of ageing.

### 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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