

DESERT WIND

2006 Merlot Wahluke Slope, WA

Cases produced:	3,129
Vineyard:	Desert Wind Vineyard
Appellation:	Wahluke Slope, WA
Harvested:	September 7 – 25, 2006
Fermentation:	Closed top fermentation with circulation two times per day, four to seven days of skin contact.
Barrel Regime:	Barrel aged seventeen months in 100% American oak
Blend:	98.7% Merlot, 0.7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 0.6% Cabernet Franc
Final #s:	Alcohol 14.8% • TA 0.56 g/100ml pH 3.53 • RS 0.03 g /100ml
Release Date:	March 2008
UPC:	768154231687

Winemaker's Notes

Intense, late summer fruit flavors are a hallmark of the Desert Wind Merlot. The wine is full-bodied and rich with ripe flavors of dark fruit and berries. Winemaker Greg Fries uses oak and patience to bind these qualities into a well-integrated and supple wine. Our Merlot pairs well with full-flavored foods including hearty pastas, grilled meats and game.

Vineyard

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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