

# DESERT WIND

## 2014 Merlot Wahluke Slope, WA

<b>Cases produced:</b>	2,511
<b>Vineyard:</b>	Desert Wind Vineyard
<b>Appellation:</b>	Wahluke Slope, WA
<b>Harvested:</b>	September-October 2014
<b>Fermentation:</b>	Closed top fermentation with circulations two-three times per day; eight-ten days of skin contact.
<b>Blend:</b>	92% Merlot, 3% Malbec, 3% Syrah, 2% Barbera
<b>Final #s:</b>	Alcohol 15.0 % • TA 0.61 g/100ml pH 3.60
<b>UPC:</b>	768154231687

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2014 growing season was unusually warm in eastern Washington's Wahluke Slope viticultural area. The resultant high sugar content in our Merlot grapes from our Desert Wind Vineyard produced a wine with a higher alcohol content; yet the wine remains balanced with sultry tannins. Our 2014 Desert Wind Merlot displays aromas and flavors of fig, plum, blackberry, and chocolate. Our Merlot is enjoyable alone or with a wide array of cheeses and charcuterie. 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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