

2015 RESERVE MERLOT
FOUR FEATHERS VINEYARD | COLUMBIA VALLEY

GROWING SEASON

- ▶ The 2015 vintage was one of the warmest growing seasons on record in Washington.
- ▶ Warm temperatures continued through the spring and summer, moderating slightly into fall and extending an early harvest.
- ▶ Overall, 2015 saw very favorable growing conditions, producing optimal ripening across varieties and yielding outstanding wines throughout the region

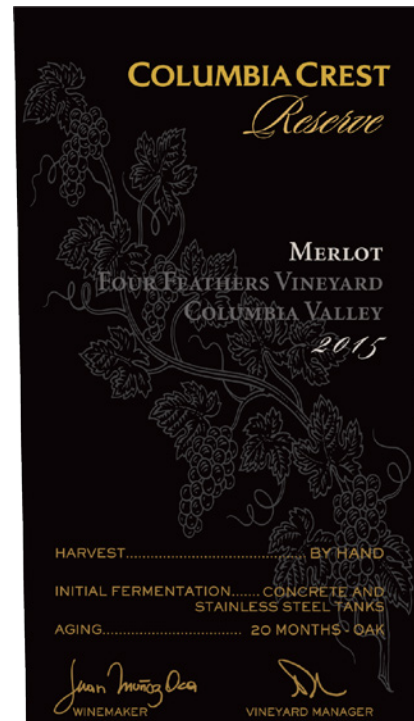
VINEYARDS -

- ▶ Fruit was handpicked from Four Feathers Vineyard Block 09, which is nestled against a softly sloping hill.
- ▶ Low yielding vines produce small clusters and small berries, resulting in intense varietal flavors and deep color.
- ▶ The balance between warm daytime temperatures and cooler evenings concentrated aromatics and enhanced complexity.
- ▶ Low rainfall stressed the vines, and irrigation was applied judiciously to create concentrated varietal expression.

VINIFICATION

- ▶ Hand-picked grapes were destemmed, sorted and placed into stainless steel tanks. A twice-daily pumpover regime was used to extract color and flavors.
- ▶ The grapes were cold soaked for two days prior to fermentation to help extract color and flavor from the grape skins without extracting too much tannin.
- ▶ Initial fermentation occurred in a mixture of concrete, oak and stainless steel tanks to help the grapes express themselves in three different ways to bring complexity to the final blend.
- ▶ Lots were kept separate and placed into 85% new French oak barrels. Aging occurred for 19 months, with blending happening just prior to bottling.

- APPELLATION** ▶ COLUMBIA VALLEY
- VINEYARD** ▶ FOUR FEATHERS VINEYARD
- BLEND** ▶ 90% MERLOT
10% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
- ALCOHOL** ▶ 15.5%
- TOTAL ACIDITY** ▶ 0.56 g/100 ML
- PH** ▶ 3.63
- CASES CRAFTED** ▶ 600



TASTING NOTES

"This Merlot is bold and intense. Aromas of ripe, jammy dark fruit fill the nose, followed by layers of tobacco and sage. Ripe tannins fill the palate and lead to a lengthy, yet focused finish."

Juan Muñoz Oca

JUAN MUÑOZ OCA ▶ COLUMBIA CREST ▶ WINEMAKER