



2015 BLOCK 9 MERLOT

COLUMBIA VALLEY

LIMITED RELEASE



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"THIS JAZZY MERLOT IS A REAL CHAMELEON. WITH NOTES OF MOCHA AND JUICY BLACK PLUMS, IT HAS ENOUGH FRUIT AND SPICE TO BE A WELCOME GUEST AT ANY DOWN-HOME BBQ, BUT BRING IT OUT FOR A GOURMET MEAL AND ITS BRIGHT ACIDITY AND PLUSH TANNINS MAKE IT A PERFECT PARTNER FOR THE FINEST FARE. THE MAJORITY OF THE WINE COMES FROM VINEYARD BLOCKS WITH '9' IN THEIR NAMES."

K.D. ORGAN
WINEMAKER

VINTAGE

- 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

- 71% of the fruit was sourced from the Wahluke Slope, one of the warmest regions in Washington state that creates big and bold wines.
- Our most northern growing area, the Wahluke Slope is bordered on both the west and the south by the Columbia River and to the north by the Saddle Mountains.
- 29% of the fruit was sourced from the Horse Heaven Hills. The terrain consists of south-facing slopes that provide excellent sun exposure for grape ripening, and protection from cold airflow during the winter months.
- Strong wind patterns in the Horse Heaven Hills reduce canopy size and density and contribute to even ripening by moderating temperature extremes.

WINEMAKING

- Ripe grapes were destemmed and sorted with a cutting-edge grape receiving and sorting system designed to gently remove any green material from the grapes, allowing for pure varietal expression and soft mouthfeel.
- Daily gentle pumpovers were used to extract optimal flavor and color and minimize harsh tannins.
- Frequent aerative racking takes place during barrel aging to soften tannins and enhance mouthfeel.
- Aged in 35% New American oak, 20% New French oak, and 45% Neutral American oak.

TECHNICAL DATA

TA	0.51 G/100 ML
pH	3.98
BLEND	100% MERLOT
% ALCOHOL	14.8%
CASES PRODUCED	420