



Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 COLUMBIA VALLEY

MERCER ESTATES

Mercer Estates is a family-owned Washington State winery devoted to producing premium wines through a partnership of the Mercer and Hogue families. Founded in 2006, Mercer Estates was built upon a passion for the Columbia Valley and a winemaking heritage which bridges generations of excellence in Washington State. Winemaking responsibility for Mercer Estates lies in the hands of David Forsyth, one of the most acclaimed winemakers in the country. David grew up in eastern Washington and spent 23 years making wine for The Hogue Cellars with Mike Hogue before moving to Mercer Estates.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This wine opens with ripe blackberry and cherry with scents of oak spice and vanilla in the aroma. Flavors of cherry and spice combine with a rich mouthfeel, good structure and a long, supple finish.

VINEYARD SOURCING

Two vineyard blocks from the McKinley Springs Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills and one from the Desert Wind Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope provide the Cabernet Sauvignon for this blend. Both of these warmer AVAs are recognized for growing ripe, full-bodied reds with good tannin structure. Merlot from Desert Wind Vineyard provides a nice element of cherry and another layer of fruit complexity. Cabernet Franc, a low tannin variety, from Mike Hogue's Zephyr Ridge Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills adds softness to the wine.

GROWING SEASON

A warm early growing season raised grape sugars rapidly but patience was required, especially with the early ripening Merlot, to allow the fruit flavors and tannins to develop fully.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were harvested at optimum maturity finding a balance of developed rich fruit flavors, ripe tannins and sugar, the latter of which produces the alcohol for body. The blocks were individually harvested over several weeks and fermented. Soon after pressing the wines were put through a malolactic fermentation to soften the wine and aged in American and French Oak barrels for 18 months.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation Columbia Valley
Blend 77% Cabernet Sauvignon,
13% Merlot, & 10% Cabernet Franc
Alcohol 14.5%
T.A. 0.70 g/100 mL
pH 3.73

