



## *Merlot 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

Cherry fruit with hints of cocoa, vanilla and cedar are found in the aroma and flavors of this full-bodied Merlot. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc bring complexity to the blend. A long mid-palate and supple tannins lend an elegant finish.

### VINEYARD SOURCING

The Desert Wind Vineyard in the Wahluke appellation provides over 60% of the Merlot in this blend. The balance of the Merlot and the Cabernet Sauvignon are from the McKinley Springs Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. Both appellations are warmer growing areas known for producing red wines of concentration, structure and pronounced flavor. Cabernet Franc, a low tannin variety, from Mike Hogue's Zephyr Ridge Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills brings softness to the wine.

### GROWING SEASON

A warm, early growing season raised grape sugars rapidly. Patience was required, especially with the early ripening variety 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 ..... 83% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc  
                    & 7% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Alcohol ..... 14.5%  
T.A. .... 0.61 g/100 mL  
pH ..... 3.61

