



# 2013 MERLOT HORSE HEAVEN HILLS



## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Aromas of ripe cherries and blackberries are laced with hints of warm baking spices. The lush fruit flavors are framed with supple, velvety tannins and balanced acidity. Well integrated oak adds a touch of complexity to the nose and roundness in the mouth. This lovely wine is both powerful and elegant, making perfect to pair with a meal.

## VINEYARD SOURCING

The grapes for this wine come from our estate vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills. The Merlot came from our Princeton Vineyard, the Syrah from Dead Canyon and the Cabernet Sauvignon from our Big Tee Pee Vineyard.

## GROWING SEASON

2013 was one of the hottest years on record. A moderate winter lead into a warm spring and a very hot summer. We saw veraison two weeks earlier than normal, and began harvest a week ahead of schedule. A warm, dry September allowed for longer hang time of the grapes which contributed to concentrated flavor development along with ripe tannins.

## WINEMAKING

Grapes were individually harvested over several weeks and fermented separately to preserve the individual character of the vineyards. The wine was gently pressed off of the skins before it underwent malolactic fermentation in barrels. The wines were aged for over 20 months in a combination of French and American oak prior to blending.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation .....	Horse Heaven Hills
Blend .....	80% Merlot, 17% Syrah, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol .....	14.5%
T.A. ....	0.59 g/100 ml
pH .....	3.68

## SENSORY INDICATOR



- Ripe Cherries
- Blackberries
- Warm Baking Spices
- Oak

