

# Ode to Brothers

LABEL: MERCER RESERVE

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

VIN: 2016



## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

A beautifully balanced blend of three classic Rhone Varietals - Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvedre - allows the character of each to show its contribution to the blend. The Syrah brings volume and complex aromas of blackberries and spice. The Grenache brings nice ripe red currants and raspberries and keeps the mouthfeel bright. Mourvedre supplies lavender and white pepper. The contribution of each of these varieties has created a balanced, elegant wine. Aromas of ripe blueberry, punctuated by cracked pepper and coffee and notes of high tone red fruits, lead into a lush mouth with powdery tannins.

## VINEYARD SOURCING

The fruit for this wine is grown at our acclaimed Spice Cabinet Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. This vineyard sits on a southeast slope above the Columbia River. The orientation of the block allows for morning sun exposure of the fruit, while avoiding the intense afternoon rays.

## GROWING SEASON

The 2016 vintage started ahead of schedule and had everyone thinking it was going to be even warmer than 2015, however unusually cool temperatures in July and August were followed by a cool October. The cooler summer temps allowed for longer hang time into September and October. The warm days and cool nights of September gave us ample fruit flavor development balanced with bright acidity.

## WINEMAKING

The fruit was machine harvested with our 'Selective Harvest' attachment allowing the fruit to be sorted in the vineyard. The grapes were sorted a second time at the winery on our sorting table and then each individual lot was fermented in stainless steel tanks. Twice daily pumpovers allowed gentle extraction of color and tannins. After draining the wine and pressing the skins, the wine was racked to a blend of new French and older oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was aged in barrel for 20 months before blending together for bottling.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Horse Heaven Hills

Blend: 42% Syrah, 39% Grenache, 19% Mourvedre

Alcohol: 14.5%

T.A: 0.44 g/100 ml

pH: 3.87

UPC: 898012002231