



PROPRIETOR'S RESERVE
2015 MERLOT
COLUMBIA VALLEY

Varietal Composition:	100% Merlot
Appellation:	Columbia Valley
Bottled:	August 9, 2017
Technical Data:	Alc. 14.5% by vol.; RS: 0.01%; TA: 5.95 g/L; pH: 3.60
Cases Produced:	304
Production & Aging:	Aged 19 months in 50% new French Oak

THE VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage was one for the record books with an exceptionally warm growing season which led to an historically early start and end to the grape harvest in Washington state. At Maryhill Winery, the arrival of grapes began on August 24th and carried strong until the final delivery on October 15th. Although the warmest growing season on record, the quality of the fruit was phenomenal and the wines from the 2015 vintage show to be well-balanced with deep, concentrated flavors.

THE VINEYARD

Sourced from three award-winning vineyards in Washington State's Columbia Valley AVA - 75% Elephant Mountain Vineyard, 20% McKinley Springs Vineyard and 5% Kiona Vineyard.

THE WINEMAKING

Throughout harvest, Winemaker Richard Batchelor worked closely with local growers and visited each vineyard to taste for maturity and ripeness to determine the precise moment to pick the fruit. Grapes were hand-harvested during the cool hours of the morning to preserve bright fruit notes. Each lot underwent a five day pre-fermentation cold soak before the tank was allowed to go through a native fermentation to dryness lasting roughly 21 days. Each lot was fermented separately and then blended before bottling to allow the tannins to meld together. To craft this wine, only the free run juice was collected and no press fraction was blended. The wine was then barrel aged for 19 months in new French oak. For the first year this wine was stirred in barrel on its lees and racked when necessary to soften the tannins. After the first 12 months the wine was racked off the lees for clarity before blending and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Warm toasty notes with hints of cherry cola, violets and tobacco, completed with notes of roasted chestnuts, molasses and a long finish.

AWARDS

Gold; 2018 INDY International Wine Competition



Pacific Northwest Winery of the Year
Wine Press Northwest, 2015

Winery of the Year
San Francisco International, 2014

Top 10 Winery of the World
World Association of Wine Writers & Journalists, 2014

Winemaker of the Year
INDY International, 2013, 2018 & 2019