



PROPRIETOR'S RESERVE  
2013 MERLOT  
COLUMBIA VALLEY

Varietal Composition:	100% Merlot
Appellation:	Columbia Valley
Harvested:	September through October 2013
Bottled:	July 23, 2015
Technical Data:	Alc. 14.4% by vol.; RS: 0.01%; TA: 5.83 g/L; pH: 3.56
Cases Produced:	292
Production & Aging:	Aged 19 months in 45% new French Oak

## THE VINTAGE

The 2013 vintage warmed up quickly creating warmer soil temperatures which resulted in early sap flow and bud burst, ahead of the normal averages. Warmer temperatures well through the season allowed shoot length to surge ahead and flowering to begin early, which is typically a week to ten days in Washington. This even flowering cycle was evident in cluster maturation across the vineyard, resulting in more uniform flavors in each block. Due to the favorable conditions, less fruit was dropped during veraison which resulted in slightly increased crop yields. It was a hot and even season from beginning to end.

## THE VINEYARD

Sourced from two award-winning vineyards- this Merlot is comprised of fruit from 83% Eagle Ranch Vineyard and 17% Klipsun 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 in about 21 days. Only the free run juice was collected to craft this wine, no press fraction was used in the making of this wine. This wine was then aged in French oak barrels for 19 months. For the first year this wine was stirred in barrel on its lees to enhance mouthfeel and racked when necessary to soften the tannins. After the first 12 months the wine was racked off the lees for clarity before bottling.

## TASTING NOTES

Fruit-forward throughout with flavors of raspberry, cherry and a hint of cedar on the nose. This reserve merlot is balanced and food-friendly with a bright finish.

## AWARDS

Double Gold, 2016 Seattle Wine Awards



*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