

# TENOR

## 2015 Merlot



2015 Tenor Merlot was a vintage where we dropped quite a bit of fruit. Merlot vines will hang as much fruit as they can, so we pushed the threshold to maximize concentration and flavor intensity. We're meticulous about site choice, soil and exposure, but we source our Merlot from several vineyards. This enables us to create a wine that has it all: power, suppleness, texture, smoky fruit, intense aromatics.

2015 was a warm year, to be sure, but everything aligned in such a beautiful, synchronistic way, allowing the fruit to retain freshness despite high temperatures. Many favor this vintage as a truly great one for the Columbia Valley, producing wines with energy and vitality. We are excited about the balance captured in this vintage.

All the grapes are cluster sorted then destemmed and berry sorted by hand. Sorting is aggressive, but less so than some other Tenor wines because the few bits of stem actually add a nice perfume and complexity to the Merlot.

*"Intense notes of raspberry puree, sweet smoke and spices. A hint of black tea and berry potpourri adds complexity. Swirling adds sweet fruit, strawberry jam, plum skin, floral notes and crème brulee. The palate is saturated with red and black fruits, fine tannin and vibrancy that defies its ripeness. The finish is long and compressed, hinting at its need for short term cellaring."*

-ARYN MORELL, WINEMAKER

### SELECT VINEYARDS

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ① Columbia Valley AVA    | Stillwater Creek Vineyard |
| ② Red Mountain AVA       | Red Mountain Vineyard     |
| ③ Walla Walla Valley AVA | Pepper Bridge Vineyard    |

AVA	Columbia Valley
Production	136 Cases
Release Date	Fall 2018
Blend	100% Merlot
Vinification	83% stainless steel and 17% concrete
Aging	67% new and 17% used French oak for 20 months
Alcohol	14.3%
Retail	\$60

