



# *Merlot 2005*

## HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

### THE STORY OF MERCER ESTATES

Mercer Estates is a family-owned Washington State winery devoted to producing premium wines through a partnership of the Mercer and Hogue families. Built upon a shared passion for the Columbia Valley and a winemaking heritage which bridges generations of excellence in Washington State agriculture and more than 25 years of grape growing and winemaking experience, Mercer Estates located in Prosser, Washington was founded in 2006. Winemaking responsibility for Mercer Estates lies in the hands of David Forsyth, one of the most acclaimed winemakers in the country. David grew up in eastern Washington and spent 23 years making wine for The Hogue Cellars with Mike Hogue before moving to Mercer Estates.

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Ripe mature blueberry and cherry aromas with a nice oak spice are followed by forest floor, cedar and anise. In the supple mouth the same fruit flavors are complimented with chocolate and coffee bean followed by moderate tannins with good mouth feel and length.

### VINEYARD SOURCING

Sourced from the warm Horse Heaven Hills appellation, Merlot develops ripe berry fruit flavors and good color and tannin structure. Cool nights help preserve the grapes natural acidity to create wine with great balance. This wine will be drinkable on release and will age well with additional cellaring.

### GROWING SEASON

Low snowfall the preceding winter raised the specter of a drought but careful water management combined with the low water requirements of the Vinifera vine resulted in high quality grapes. A warm summer without the heat spikes in July and August followed by a cool and dry September and October led to good color and flavor development in the reds.

### WINEMAKING

The wines were fermented in stainless steel tanks and pumped over then pressed off and aged in French oak barrels prior to assembling the blend. The addition of Syrah added some roundness to the mid-palate along with adding a complexity to the flavor profile.



<b>Appellation</b>	Horse Heaven Hills
<b>Blend</b>	95% Merlot, 5% Syrah
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.5%
<b>T.A.</b>	0.67 g/100 mL
<b>pH</b>	3.51