



## *Merlot 2008*

COLUMBIA VALLEY

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Pronounced aromas of cherry, kirshwasser and cassis are completed with hints of cocoa, vanilla and allspice. In the mouth, spiced berry fruit plays a dominate role in a full-bodied, broad and structured style, finishing with moderate tannins and ripe savory overtones.

### VITICULTURIST'S NOTES

The Merlot grapes for this wine were sourced from two of Washington's premier red grape growing regions, the Horse Heaven Hills and the Wahluke Slope. Merlot grown from these regions produce intense wines which exhibit bold tannin structure and rich deep color. A small percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Wahluke Slope was brought into this blend to add complexity and additional structure.

### GROWING SEASON

A warm, early spring lead to early bud-break which quickly increased sugar levels. Patience and experience were required to achieve full physiological ripeness, especially in early ripening varieties like Merlot. Grapes were harvested at optimum maturity, block by block, resulting in an exceptional vintage.

### WINEMAKING

Grapes were harvested at optimum maturity providing an excellent balance of sugar, fruit flavor, acid and ripe tannins. The blocks were individually harvested over several weeks and fermented separately to preserve the individual character of the vineyards. Soon after pressing the wines were put through a malolactic fermentation to soften the structure and then went to American and French Oak barrels for 18 months of aging.

### MERCER ESTATES

Mercer Estates is dedicated to producing distinctive wines through equal passions for grape growing and winemaking. With over 100 years of agricultural history in Horse Heaven Hills, Yakima Valley and Columbia Valley; we employ award winning, sustainable farming practices that ensure our wines express the true character of our vineyards. Get to know our winemaking families at [www.mercerwine.com](http://www.mercerwine.com).

*"Two spirited wine growing families that embody the flavor and soul of their lands".*

### TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation ..... Columbia Valley  
Blend ..... 93% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Alcohol ..... 14.9%  
T.A. .... 0.55 g/100 mL  
pH ..... 3.68

