



# 2015 SHARP SISTERS HORSE HEAVEN HILLS



*The Sharp Sisters Red Blend is crafted in a New World style with the same artistry and craftsmanship Mercer Estates utilizes in their award-winning portfolio of wines. This wine is fun, forward and meant to be enjoyed among family and friends, just as Carma Sharp-Mercer and her sisters would have wanted.*

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This blend shows a beautiful nose of blackberry preserves and plums with notes of sage and sweet vanilla. The ripe fruit combined with sleek tannins create a wine that is broad and powerful yet elegant. The ripe flavors in the mouth lead into a soft, lingering finish with a touch of bright acidity that leaves you wanting more.

## VINEYARD SOURCING

The grapes for this wine come from our estate vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA. Merlot comes from Dead Canyon Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon from Eagle & Plow Vineyard, Grenache, Syrah and Carignane from Spice Cabinet Vineyard and Petit Verdot from Milt's Vineyard.

## GROWING SEASON

2015 was the hottest year on record and began with a moderate winter that led into a warm spring and very hot summer. The warm spring resulted in an early bloom, which caused veraison to occur 2-3 weeks earlier than normal, and began harvest 2 weeks ahead of schedule. The heatwave finally tapered off at the end of August, giving us warm days and cool nights creating the perfect conditions for great fruit flavor development. The cool nights maintained the bright natural acidity in the grapes, resulting in balanced wines with concentrated fruit.

## WINEMAKING

These grapes were double sorted, first in the vineyard with the selective harvest on our Pellenc harvesters, then again at the winery on our sorting table. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole-berry as possible. At the winery, individual lots were fermented in stainless steel tanks. Twice daily pumpovers allowed gentle extraction of color and tannins. After draining the wine and pressing the skins, the wine was racked to a blend of French and American oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was aged in barrel for 18 months before being blended together for bottling.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation .....	Horse Heaven Hills Blend
Blend .....	29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Syrah, 18% Merlot, 14% Petit Verdot, 10% Grenache, 2% Carignane
Alcohol.....	14.8
T.A. ....	0.54 g/100 ml
pH .....	3.89

## SENSORY INDICATOR



- Blackberry
- Plum
- Sage
- Sweet Vanilla

