

# DESERT WIND



## 2019 MERLOT

### Wahluke Slope AVA

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#### WINEMAKING NOTES

The 2019 growing season started off slow due to winter storms that lasted into February, but consistently warm and sunny days in the summer put growth back on track. The overall heat accumulation remained just above average for Washington. Overall, the 2019 vintage showcased a fairly typical vintage in the area, which is a good sign for the consistency and quality of the resulting wines. The 2019 Merlot is composed of 84% Merlot and is well balanced by the dark fruit and structure of the Syrah that rounds out the blend. The lots were fermented separately, then blended and aged for 18 months in French oak.

#### VINEYARD NOTES

The Wahluke Slope AVA is located in south-central Washington and is considered one of the warmer regions in the state. Our 480 acre Desert Wind Vineyard is south-facing, with a gradual two percent slope ranging from 800 to 1,000 feet in elevation. The deep, rocky soil allows for excellent drainage, stressing the vines and allowing focused energy on fruit production. The resulting wines are highly pigmented and have excellent tannin structure.

#### TASTING NOTES

The 2019 Merlot opens with aromas of black cherry, fig, and dried herbs. The palate is sultry and smooth, with flavors of blackberry, vanilla, and a hint of coffee. The tannins are velvety and the finish is long with a touch of spice. It's a crowd pleaser for any table!

COMPOSITION: 84% Merlot, 16% Syrah

AVA: Wahluke Slope, WA | AGING: 18 months in French oak

ALCOHOL: 14.6% | TA: 5.4 g/L | pH: 3.5 | PRODUCTION: 1250 cases