



2014 | 1RDRS4 READERS MERLOT COLUMBIA VALLEY A.V.A.

An outstanding Merlot from Washington's oldest and most revered vineyards, our Readers blend tips its hat to all exploratory readers of books and wine. Sourced from Conner Lee Vineyard's old vines of 1992 block Merlot, Dionysus Vineyards' block 15 Merlot, and Elephant Mountain Vineyards' high elevation superior Syrah and Cabernet blocks, this powerful wine offers fragrant cherries and chocolate with rich marionberry flavors in this delicious easy-drinking style.

VINTAGE

A hot and early ripening harvest, our vineyards yielded fruit with record color and tannin. This is in alignment with our house style of rich and smooth age-worthy reds. Spring broke buds and flowered early. Summer temperatures were hotter than average with many July and August days over 100F. Verasion was early under good conditions, together hallmarks of great vintages. Our fruit we shaded with healthy canopies, balancing acidity and sugar ripeness while protecting against sunburn. By October, the vintage was record breaking in total heat units and cool picking weather was welcome.

WINEMAKING

Starting the morning of September 25 we hand-harvested Merlot fruit into small fermenters. We hand-mixed for two weeks then finished fermentation in barrels and puncheons. We aged on lees reductively developing savory tones complimentary to the powerful fruit. After 20 months, we selected the final blend. Lastly we added choice Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc for aromatic lift. We then filtered for purity and aging stability. The blend offers Merlot at its most gorgeous expression. This rich wine will age easily for a decade and is enjoyable with a host of savory, full flavored foods throughout the range of seasons.

APPELLATIONS & VINEYARDS

Columbia Valley 90%	50% Conner Lee 40% Dionysus
Yakima Valley 10%	10% Elephant Mountain

FINAL BLEND

80%	Merlot
12%	Cabernet Sauvignon
6%	Cabernet Franc
2%	Syrah

AGING

100% French Oak barrels, 25% new

CASES PRODUCED 1,200 12-pack cases/750mL

TECHNICAL DATA Bottled: Summer 2016 • Alcohol: 14.9% by volume • pH: 3.65 • TA: 5.1 • RS: 2g/L

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