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## 2012 Columbia Valley Merlot

### VINTAGE

After two cooler than normal vintages, the 2012 vintage more closely resembled what is typical of the Columbia Valley. Though the temperatures were relatively cool in the spring of 2012, summer temperatures were warm and remarkably consistent. The ideal weather continued through harvest and allowed us to produce aromatic, flavorful wines with good acidity. Expect the wines from this vintage to be long-lived and incredibly well-balanced.

### VINEYARDS

One of the advantages of having made wine in the Columbia Valley since the mid-1980s is the opportunity it's given me to work with some of the most dedicated growers in the industry. Our Columbia Valley wines are made from a short list of vineyards I consider to be among the best in the state. The diversity of these vineyards-representing many of the most mature, carefully managed sites in Washington-provides for a full range of fruit expression that allows me to craft complex, multi-layered wines true to Columbia Valley *terroir* as well as the varietal character of the grapes. Our 2012 Columbia Valley Merlot includes grapes from Weinbau, Klipsun, and Ciel du Cheval Vineyards.

### WINEMAKING

After destemming and crushing, grapes were fermented on their skins in small lots for an average time of 8 days. After being pressed off, each lot of wine was moved to an equal mix of new and once used French oak barrels for 20 months of barrel aging during which time the wine was racked every 4-5 months.

### TASTING NOTES

This well-structured, medium-bodied Merlot shows lots of raspberry, red currant, plum and spice notes in the nose that complement fleshy black fruit and cocoa flavors in the mouth. Generous in texture and length, it should continue to improve with age for the next 5-10 years.



### ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

Total Acidity.....	0.54g/100ml
pH.....	3.64
Blend... ..	95% Merlot 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases.....	415
Bottling Date.....	June 2, 2014

Mike Januik, owner/winemaker