



# 2015 1RDRS5 READERS MERLOT

COLUMBIA VALLEY A.V.A.

An outstanding Merlot from Washington's revered old vineyards Conner Lee and Dionysus. Our Readers blend tips its hat to all exploratory readers of books and wine. Blending Conner Lee Vineyard's 1992 old block Merlot and Dionysus Vineyards' block 15 Merlot combines two super character vineyards. Elephant Mountain Vineyard's Cabernet bring spice and complexity to the blend. This powerful wine offers fragrant cherries and chocolate with rich marrionberry flavors in this delicious easy drinking style.

## VINTAGE

Vintage 2015 is Washington's leading hot vintage and earliest 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 in March and flowered in May, setting the stage for the early harvest. Late spring developed small grapes on small clusters in all our vineyards. Summer temperatures were hotter than average and lead to an early July verasion. Together early and swift verasion are hallmarks of great vintages. Our fruit we shaded with healthy canopies balancing acidity and sugar ripeness while protecting against sunburn. We harvested summer fruits in excellent condition.

## WINEMAKING

Dionysus we harvested August 26 into small fermenters. Conner Lee Vineyard we picked at the peak of ripeness swiftly by Pellenc Selective harvester September 10 delivering perfectly sorted fruit right on time. 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 cabernet sauvignon for aromatic lift. We then filtered for purity and aging stability. The blend offers merlot at its most gorgeous expression. This rich wine will is enjoyable with a host of foods throughout those seasons.

## APPELLATIONS & VINEYARDS

Columbia Valley 90%	80% Conner Lee 10% Dionysus
Yakima Valley 10%	10% Elephant Mountain

## FINAL BLEND

90% Merlot  
10% Cabernet Sauvignon

## AGING

100% French oak  
puncheons & barrels,  
25% new

**CASES PRODUCED** 1,010 12-pack cases/750mL

**TECHNICAL DATA** Bottled: Sept 2017 • Alcohol: 14.9% by volume • pH: 3.85 • TA: 5.1g/L • RS: 1g/L

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