

# II APEX

## APEX CELLARS II

### 2005 Merlot

#### Blend

86% Merlot  
7% Cabernet Sauvignon  
3% Malbec  
3% Syrah  
1% Cabernet Franc

#### Bottling

pH: 3.62  
TA: 0.66  
Alc:

Apex Cellars is one of Washington's most respected wineries. Its three brands, Apex, Apex II, and Bridgman, cover the spectrum from reserve-caliber, vineyard-designate wines to wines that can be enjoyed every day. Apex Cellars has one of the state's most enviable records for awards per wine entered in local, regional or national competitions. All of the winery's brands have received glowing reviews from respected wine experts here and abroad.

#### Columbia Valley

Washington's success with vinifera grapes is due in large measure to the state's unique geography. The vineyards are planted on the east side of the Cascade Mountains which serve to protect the region from marine weather off the Pacific coast and limit rainfall to just 608 inches annually. Low rainfall and free-draining soils allow vineyard managers to control vine vigor in order to promote flavor development in the grapes. Warm daytime temperatures ripen fruit to perfection. Cool autumn nights protect the grapes natural acidity.

#### Tasting Note

Dark and unusually rich, this Merlot is more complex than most because of the cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon blended into it. The result shows sweet cherry, vanilla and spice, and hints of anise and chocolate combined in a velvety package.

