

# Merlot 2005

## Washington State

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Washington's success with vinifera 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 6 - 8 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.

### *Vintage Note*

Columbia Valley's 2005 growing season brought the perfect combination of warm summer months, cool autumn temperatures and a mild winter. With moderate winter temperatures and a prolonged Indian summer the grapes were allowed extra hang time which developed robust Washington wine characteristics. The harvest resulted in high quality grapes with concentrated flavors.

### *Tasting Note*

Aromatic notes of cinnamon, spice, black plums and a hint of smoke welcome you to this wonderful Merlot. A velvety, rounded palate is filled with raspberry and cherry flavors married with notes of cedar and vanilla on the finish.

### *Variety Blend*

100% Merlot

### *Bottling*

pH: 3.53

TA: 0.6

ALC: 13.5%

