

# 2012 MERLOT



## AWARDS

92 POINTS LA INTERNATIONAL WINE & SPIRITS  
BEST OF CLASS LA INTERNATIONAL WINE & SPIRITS  
GOLD LA INTERNATIONAL WINE & SPIRITS  
GOLD INDY INT'L WINE COMPETITION

AVAILABILITY

OCTOBER 2015

SOURCE

COUGAR HILLS VINEYARD

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

91% MERLOT

9% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

OAK PROGRAM

100% of our Merlot is aged in 60 gallon barrels for a minimum of 20 months. New oak comprises 30% of this oak with 25% French and 75% American oak that has been air dried for 3 years instead of 2 years. The balance of the barrels is 1, 2 or 3 years old. During racking neutral barrels are substituted in to prevent the wine from being over oaked.

TASTING NOTES

This world class Merlot from our estate vineyards shows classic varietal character of black cherry, olive, herbs, and red currants. Balanced acidity and supple tannins complement the rich mouth feel. The finish languishes with toast, vanilla, and mocha notes. Washington Merlots are big hearty wines but Cougar Crest brings finesse and balance to their Merlots.

13.4% Alcohol