

# 2016 MERLOT

WALLA WALLA VALLEY  
ESTATE GROWN AND PRODUCED

## AWARDS

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL  
WASHINGTON STATE  
WINE AWARDS

## CASE PRODUCTION

282 CASES

## SOURCE

COUGAR HILLS VINEYARD

90 % MERLOT

10 % CABERNET FRANC

## TASTING NOTES

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.

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.