

# MERCER BROS.

## MERLOT

AVA: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS, COLUMBIA VALLEY

VINTAGE: 2017



Nearly fifty years ago the Mercer family planted the first wine grapes in the Columbia Valley's Horse Heaven Hills, on land our great-grandfather settled in 1886. We strive to maintain Willis Mercer's independent spirit in our wines, grown predominantly from these original vineyards - tended by us, made by us.

- Will Mercer & Rob Mercer

### WILL & ROB'S NOTES:

Notes of candied walnuts, ripe raspberry jam, plum, and dried cranberries mingle with sweet coconut and vanilla. In the palate, the fruit is mocha and blueberries. This wine has a structural core of powdery tannins that are lifted with a touch of acidity. This big, bold Merlot will pair well with many dishes and has amazing aging potential.

### ESTATE VINEYARDS:

The grapes for this wine come from our estate vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills. The Merlot came from Dead Canyon and Zephyr Ridge vineyards, and the Syrah from our Spice Cabinet Vineyard.

### GROWING SEASON:

The 2017 growing season was steady and warm, with harvest right on schedule from early September through mid October. The warm days and cool nights of September gave us ample fruit flavor development, ending with deep concentration balanced with bright acidity, and dusty tannins for excellent texture and finish.

### WINEMAKING:

These grapes were picked and immediately sorted in the vineyard. The fruit was not crushed in order to preserve as much whole-berry as possible. At the winery, individual lots were fermented in stainless steel tanks. Twice daily pumpovers allowed gentle extraction of color and tannins. 20 month barrel aging in 25% New French and American Oak.

### TECHNICAL NOTES:

APPELLATION: Horse Heaven Hills in the Columbia Valley  
BLEND: 85% Merlot, 14% Syrah, 1% Malbec  
ALCOHOL: 14.5%  
T.A: 0.44 g/100 ml  
PH: 3.84

### ACCLAIM, VINTAGE 2016:

*Outstanding, Great Northwest Wines  
Judges Choice, Alberta Beverage Awards*

### VINTAGE 2014:

*90 pts, Wine Spectator*