

# DESERT WIND

## 2011 Merlot

Wahluke Slope, WA

<b>Cases produced:</b>	1,598
<b>Vineyard:</b>	Desert Wind Vineyard
<b>Appellation:</b>	Wahluke Slope, WA
<b>Harvested:</b>	October 2011
<b>Fermentation:</b>	Closed top fermentation with circulation two-three times per day; eight to ten days of skin contact.
<b>Barrel Regime:</b>	Barrel aged 13 months in French and American oak
<b>Blend:</b>	98% Merlot, 2% other reds
<b>Final #s:</b>	Alcohol 14.5% • TA 0.60 g/100ml pH 3.53 • RS 0.04 g /100ml
<b>UPC:</b>	768154231687

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Intense, late summer fruit flavors are a hallmark of the Desert Wind Merlot. The wine is full-bodied and rich with ripe flavors of plum, marionberry, with a hint of chocolate. Winemaker Mark Chargin uses oak and patience to bind these qualities into a well-integrated and supple wine. Our Merlot pairs well with full-flavored foods including hearty pastas, grilled meats and game.

### VINEYARD NOTES

The Wahluke Slope is located in Eastern Washington's Columbia Valley. The site is considered Zone 3, the hottest in the region. Our 480-acre vineyard is a southern facing block with a two percent slope and shallow, rocky soil. The vines are irrigated with an underground drip system; double catch wires are used to increase air circulation during the growing season. Leaf pulling and cluster thinning are important steps in aiding the ripening of the grapes.

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