



MERLOT

2014 Yakima Valley AVA, Washington

Talon Winery **MERLOT** is rich, fruit forward and bold. Look for subtle hints of blackberries and cocoa with a smooth finish. It is excellent with grilled steaks, lamb, game and spicy foods. Enjoy it now or take advantage of its aging potential. Savor with friends and family in good health.

BLEND/COMPOSITION

95% Merlot, 5% mixed blacks (Touriga Nacional, Souzão, Tannat, and Tinta Cão)

FERMENTATION/AGING

No malolactic fermentation

Barrel aged in neutral medium toast oak barrels

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Our 2014 Merlot comes from Washington State. Due to catastrophic growing conditions in previous years, we were left with no choice other than to outsource our fruit. While this is never our preferred option, we do what we must. Fortunately, we work very closely with a trusted group of growers in Washington, and they provide us with high quality fruit that meets or exceeds our standards. Fermentation began at relatively high starting brix, one of the characteristics of full maturity in grapes. Macerated for two weeks before pressing, this wine is very fruit forward and approachable. We barrel age to promote fine tannins and light oak characters in a supporting role. We use a very light touch with oak in our Merlot, preferring to let the natural flavors and aromas come through. Bottled January 28, 2015.

TECHNICAL DATA

Titratable Acidity at Bottling	5.1g/L
pH at Bottling	3.7
Residual Sugar	0.75%
Alcohol	12.5%