

# REININGER

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

## 2015 MERLOT

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Since the inaugural 1997 vintage, Chuck has gained great acclaim in his Walla Walla Valley Merlot. In fact one of his first vintages of Merlot (1999) scored 90 points from *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Enthusiast*, and *Wine & Spirits*. As the years have gone by Chuck has scored 90 points or higher on over 12 vintages of Walla Walla Merlot, and has been included in “Top 20 Wines of Washington State” in *Food & Wine* (2003) and the “Top 50 Wines of 2014” in *Seattle Times* for the 2010 vintage.

### DEDICATION TO TERROIR DRIVEN WINES

REININGER Winery, located in the heart of the Walla Walla Valley, specializes in crafting elegant and finely structured wines from hand-harvested, ultra premium grapes. From our first release in 1997, REININGER wines have possessed a unique quality derived from the winemaker’s awareness of and passion for the natural elements that make great wines.

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## 2015 REININGER MERLOT

100% Certified Salmon Safe.



2015 brought record temperatures along with our earliest harvest ever, beginning in late August. We experienced extreme, early summer heat and consistent hot temperatures followed by a very welcomed cooling trend beginning at veraison. The results were higher than expected acidity and even ripening. Thanks to the early harvest, the Merlot was brought in with plenty of acid in equilibrium with round, cushy tannins balanced on a foundation of plush dark cherry fruit delivering our most exceptional Walla Walla Merlot of the past several vintages.

An effusive nose brings forth intense, classic Merlot expressions of dark fruit with a floral note of dried, sweet rose petal plus a hint of incense. Opulent-focused flavors of black cherry, plum, raspberry and lots of baked fig are complemented with thin layers of judicious oak displaying notes of cedar and sandalwood with a mild drop of caramel sprinkled with cocoa powder.

<i>Blend:</i>	96% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Vineyard:</i>	Pepper Bridge, Seven Hills & XL
<i>Appellation:</i>	Walla Walla Valley
<i>Cooperage:</i>	68% American, 32% French (58% new)
<i>Alcohol:</i>	14.2%
<i>pH:</i>	3.75
<i>Acidity:</i>	6.4 g/L
<i>Bottling Date:</i>	July 2017
<i>Production:</i>	230 cases
<i>Release Date:</i>	Spring 2019
<i>Drink Between</i>	2019-2024