

# REININGER 2014 Merlot

## *Walla Walla Valley*



### DESCRIPTION

“Though 2014 at the time was the warmest vintage on record, this Merlot was harvested at its normal time due to the vines attempt to conserve moisture by shutting down photosynthesis during periods of excessive heat. Such an ardent growing season blessed this Merlot with a nice garnet color and scents of dark red fruits, turmeric spice, cocoa, loamy earth and a touch of graphite. The soft structured, balanced palate has fine grained tannins and exhibits sturdy flavors of dark cherry, currant, and black plum with a pinch of spice and loam shadowed by lightly toasted oak. This wine is great with big, roasted tomato dishes.” ~*Chuck Reininger, Winemaker*

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**Blend:** 87% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc

**Cooperage:** 96% American, 4% French (35% new)

**pH:** 3.76

**TA:** 6.0 g/L

**Alc.:** 14.2%

**Bottled:** July 2016

**Production:** 111 cases

### THE VINEYARDS

**PEPPER BRIDGE** Straddling the state line between Washington and Oregon, Pepper Bridge Vineyard dates back to 1991 when its first 10 acres were planted of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Over the next two decades, Pepper Bridge expanded to what it is today, at about 200 acres. Known for its outstanding reputation with winemakers throughout the Walla Walla Valley and Washington State, Pepper Bridge has some of the most sought after grapes. At an elevation of 850 feet, Pepper Bridge sits atop an ancient glacial lakebed leftover from the Missoula Floods. The top three feet of soils are Walla Walla silt loam, a windblown loess, but beneath that lays rich sedimentary deposits.

**XL** At a maximum elevation of 1,250 feet, XL is one of the highest planted vineyards in the Walla Walla Valley. Nestled under the Blue Mountains, XL, planted in 2005, pierces the basalt soil foundations with stony loam and windblown loess that drapes the basalt ridgelines at the higher elevations. XL’s unique soil type and steep slopes provide vines with excellent air and water drainage, and can sustain a wide range of grape varietals. XL Vineyard focuses on sustainable farming practices, from custom compost and soil composition testing to water quality and critter control, and is a voluntary member of Vinea, the Winegrowers’ Sustainable Trust, and is certified Salmon Safe.

### REININGER WINERY

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.

[www.reiningerwinery.com](http://www.reiningerwinery.com)