

# Helix

COLUMBIA VALLEY

2015 MERLOT

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The first vintage of Helix Merlot was in 2003. Since that vintage, Helix has been producing a Merlot from Stillwater Creek and Bacchus Vineyard fruit. Highlights of past accolades include 92 points from *Wine Enthusiast* on the 2005 Stillwater Creek vintage, and 91 points from *Wine Spectator* for both the 2011 and 2012 vintages.

## HELIX WINES—MORE TO EXPLORE

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Helix Wines are the culmination of a long, storied family history in the Washington and Oregon wine and agriculture industries and a reflection of our family's belief that farming and winemaking is all about discovery. Helix wines are produced by the same family who create REININGER at our Walla Walla Valley winery. Named for a farmstead in Helix, Oregon, where our grandparents met, married, and farmed, Helix is truly a reflection of our family's pioneering background and strong sense of place. Since the first Helix vintage in 2002, our goal is to explore the diverse and unbounded Columbia Valley and to see for ourselves what the Columbia Valley vineyards are capable of producing.

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## 2015 HELIX MERLOT

*100% Certified Salmon Safe*



The 2015 vintage was surprising in three ways:

- 1) it was our warmest on record
- 2) 2) it was our earliest harvest
- 3) 3) the fruit, across all varieties, possessed wonderful acidity which is atypical for hot vintages

Our Helix 100% Stillwater Creek Merlot exhibits a bright dark ruby color with a touch of magenta. The first nose hit takes me back to my childhood with a blast of Beech-Nut Cherry gum, red plum, red currant, and a mild potpourri of violets, rose petals and wood spice. A glossy mouthfeel, supported by abundant fruit elevating acidity and fine tannins, mirrors the nose while in addition cedes black raspberry, dark cherry, boysenberry, and dark chocolate with wisps of loam and tobacco. ~*Chuck Reininger, Winemaker*

<i>Blend:</i>	100% Merlot
<i>Vineyard:</i>	Stillwater Creek
<i>Appellation:</i>	Columbia Valley
<i>Cooperage:</i>	50% American, 33% Russian, 17% French (10% new oak)
<i>Alcohol:</i>	14.3%
<i>pH:</i>	3.56
<i>Acidity:</i>	6.3 g/L
<i>Bottling Date:</i>	July 2017
<i>Production:</i>	295 cases
<i>Release Date:</i>	Winter 2019
<i>Drink Between:</i>	2019-2024