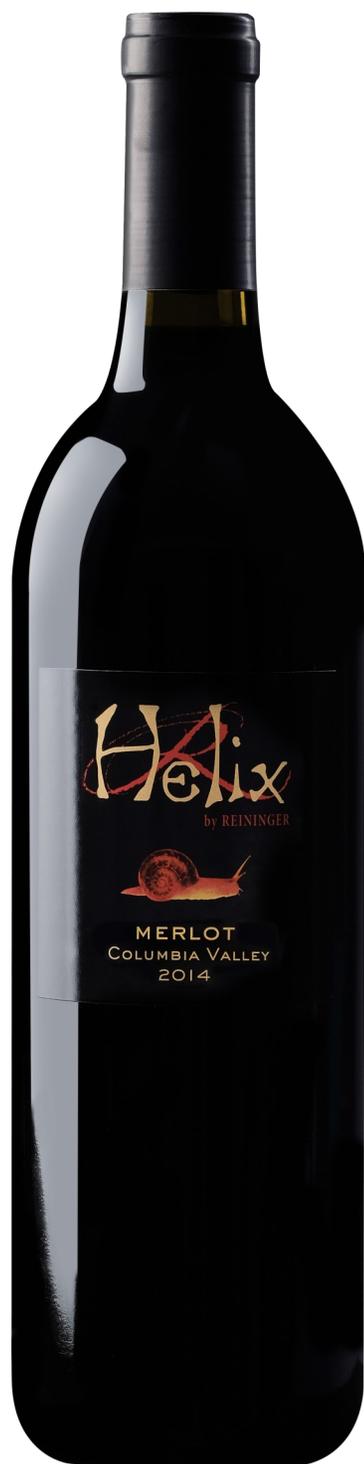


2014 Helix Merlot, *Columbia Valley*



DESCRIPTION

Where's the social justice for Merlot? Merlot is one of the World's classic red wine varieties, undeservedly vilified by Hollywood. Would you pay \$2000 for a bottle of Merlot? Many collectors do. Unbeknownst to most consumers, Merlot is perhaps the most sought-after wine in the world. Washington and the right bank of Bordeaux are the two best regions on the globe for growing this noble grape.

The 2014 Helix Merlot is a wonderful expression of pure Washington Merlot. It exhibits incredible red berry character and violet on the nose with a very judicious use of oak. A plush mouthfeel, accented by pillow-soft tannins, projects gorgeous fruit flavors of red and black raspberry, boysenberry, red currant, plum and cherry that glide across the palate to an unbelievable soft, slow finish. Pairs beautifully with both, non-spicy, white or red meat dishes. ~*Chuck Reininger, Winemaker*

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Blend: 91% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon

Cooperage: 55% American, 45% French (10% new oak)

Vineyards: Bacchus & Phinny Hill

Alc.: 15.1%

pH: 3.71

TA: 5.8 g/L

Bottled: July 2016

Total Cases Produced: 130

VINEYARD INFORMATION

BACCHUS Location is an extremely important factor in growing high quality grapes, and Bacchus Vineyard is situated on one of the finest sites in the state. Part of the larger Sagemoor Vineyards, which includes Sagemoor, Bacchus, and Dionysus vines, Bacchus is located near Pasco on a southwest facing hillside with dramatic views of the Columbia River below. In 1972, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc, Merlot Chardonnay and Riesling were planted in what is now Bacchus Vineyard.

HISTORY OF HELIX MERLOT

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:

- 2004: Double Gold Medal, *Wine Press NW*; 90 points, *Wine Spectator*
- 2005 Stillwater Creek Vineyard: 92 points, *Wine Enthusiast*
- 2010: Double Gold Medal, *Wine Press NW*; Gold Medal, Seattle Wine Awards
- 2011: 91 points, *Wine Spectator*
- 2012: 91 points, *Wine Spectator*

HELIX WINES – MORE TO EXPLORE

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.