

# Helix 2014 Horse Heaven Hills Syrah

## DESCRIPTION

2014 was one of Washington's warmest vintages and it shows in this big fruit, big tannin, big everything, northern Rhone-style Syrah: 100% clone 470 Phinny Hill Syrah with exceptional varietal character.

Adventuress forest aromas of fresh, gamey fleshiness, with mushrooms and dark, moist earth give birth to crushed ripe blueberry, blackberry, black currant, a hint of smoky spice, violet and lilac. Its chewy body, with a jacket made of firm, tannic fabric, shows off muscular fruit flavors of black cherry, baked boysenberry with blueberry, finished with a drizzle of cassis, a suggestion of pepper and a lingering breath of lightly smoked, campfire cooked, blueberry pie. ~*Chuck Reininger, Winemaker*

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**Blend:** 100% Syrah

**Alc.:** 14.9%

**Cooperage:** 100% neutral French Oak

**pH:** 3.9

**TA:** 5.9 g/L

**Bottled:** March 2016

**Total Production:** 195 cases

## THE VINEYARDS

**PHINNY HILL** Located on the western side of the Horse Heaven Hills, Phinny Hill Vineyard is a 100 acre site atop a sun-drenched hill of rare cobble-filled soils left over from the Missoula Floods. Overlooking Champoux Vineyard and the Columbia River at an elevation of 750 feet, Phinny Hill is one of the most picturesque spots in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA. The rocky soils and eastern-facing slopes provide great irrigation and air drainage for their vines, especially the predominantly planted Bordeaux grape varieties.

## HISTORY OF HELIX SYRAH

Helix Wines has been sourcing Syrah since its first vintage in 2002, but it wasn't until the following year that a single varietal was released. Sourced primarily from Stone Tree and/or Phinny Hill Vineyards, the Helix Syrah is commonly produced in a northern Rhone style with traces of baked blueberries and a light gaminess year after year. Highlights of past accolades include:

- 2004: 91 points, *Wine Spectator*; Double Gold Medal, *Wine Press NW*; 90 points & "Pick of the Week," *Seattle Times*
- 2006: 91 points, *Wine Enthusiast*; 90 points, *Wine Advocate* & *Wine Spectator*
- 2008: 91 points, *Wine Enthusiast*; 90 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.