



## LADY HILL MERLOT 2015

**Description:** The 2015 growing season in Eastern Washington will go down as one of the hottest on record. A late season cool down was the savior for this early ripening vinifera, keeping natural acidity relatively balanced and allowing flavors to catch the elevated sugars. In the end, harvest was just two weeks ahead of the norm producing rich, robust fruit characters and a supple tannin structure. Lady Hill utilizes slow, cool fermentations that focus on fruit and create a soft plush mid-palate. This wine was barreled down in 100% neutral French oak to optimize vineyard expression. Lees contact and minimal handling throughout the aging process produce a rounded, creamy mid-palate and balanced structure.

**Flavor Profile:** "This is not your average Merlot". Mulberry at its core, gravitating into hues of boysenberry and jam, this dark-fruited beauty stays true to its varietal aromatics of plum and blackberry. Shy at first glance, she begins to lift her veil to reveal a coy smile ripe with tart Bing Cherry, spicy barrel notes and hint of iron. Give this wine a few years (or hours in a decanter) and it will continue to open into a luxurious masterpiece.

**Pairing:** This merlot will pair well with a grilled burger with blue cheese, blackened salmon with fresh arugula, or shepherd's pie.

**Varietal:** 100% Merlot

**AVA:** Columbia Valley

**Alcohol:** 14.8%

**Aging Potential:** Enjoy now through 2022

**Serving Temperature:** 18°C/65°F