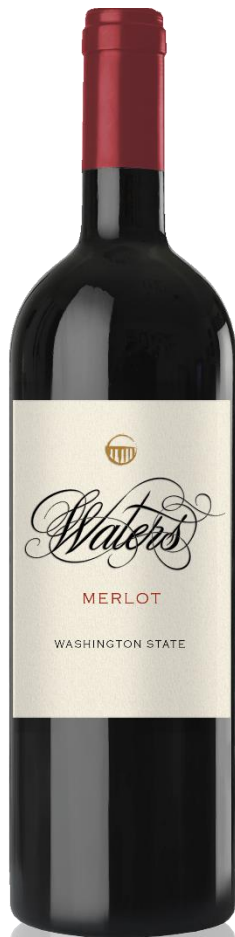




**2014 Merlot**  
**Columbia Valley AVA | 140 Cases Produced**



**Vineyards**

Cold Creek, Stone Tree, and Canoe Ridge Vineyards:

Cold Creek Vineyard is located in central Washington, east of Yakima and south of Wahluke Slope. The site was originally planted in 1973 on a gentle south-facing slope which enjoys one of the longest and warmest growing seasons in the Columbia Valley appellation. Cold Creek is an ideal site for growing grapes, from the 30-year-old stressed vines planted in light, silty, well-draining soils to the long, hot days and cool nights during the growing season. With roughly five inches of annual rainfall, the fruit from these tough vines have the power and concentration that only comes with age. Stone Tree Vineyard is 250 acres of wine grapes on the Wahluke Slope where most of the principle Bordeaux and Rhone red varieties are grown, as well as Zinfandel, Tempranillo, and Barbera. At an altitude of between 930 and 1250 above sea level on the south slope of Saddle Mountain, the vineyard has a commanding view of the Wahluke Slope AVA. This site also has one of the longest growing seasons in Washington.

Canoe Ridge is located on the ridgeline high above the Columbia River Gorge at the south end of the Columbia Valley AVA. This distinctive microclimate is ideally suited for growing Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Being situated on a wide expanse of the Columbia River, temperatures are more moderate here in the summer and winter than other parts of the AVA. The sandy loam soils on Canoe Ridge range in depth from 18 inches to five feet, which allow vine roots to drill deep for nutrients while providing excellent drainage.

**Winemaker Notes**

2014 in particular was so hot...even hotter than 2013. We had red grapes picked in August which is something we have never had to do before. Aged in French Oak for 24 months prior to bottling.

**Tasting Notes**

The aromas are locked up at present with notes of dark fruit, crushed flowers and spice that lead to ripe, plush fruit flavors backed by a firm spine of tannins that need time to unwind. It's the most unabashedly forward wine this winery has made to date. Give it plenty of time to open up; it delivers.

**Awards/Accolades**

92 Points~ Wine Enthusiast