



## **2014 OBELISCO Merlot**

**AVA:** Red Mountain

**Winemakers:** Doug Long , Sarah Goedhart

**Blend:** 81% Merlot, 19% Cabernet

**Vineyards:** 100% Obelisco

**Bottling:** 198 cases 750ml

**Alcohol:** 13.7% vol.

**Barrels:** 60% new - 40% new French, 20% new Am. & 40% Neutral American.

**Tasting Notes:** Beautiful deep red color. On the nose, the aroma is full of red berries, herbs and hints of citrus peel, dark floral notes with slight perfume. On the palate this wine is full, rich and surprisingly bright with flavors of raspberries, cherries, sage spice with inklings of cinnamon and vanilla. The mouth feel is soft, with satisfying structure, with a full, long, yet slightly sweet finish that endures with nicely balanced acid and tannins.

**Cellaring:** Because it is made from Red Mountain Merlot and Cabernet this wine should age well for the next 10 to 12 years. Because it is Obelisco fruit it is soft and inviting now.

**Production:** All the fruit for this wine is from Obelisco Vineyard. The high density planting yields smaller berries, which contribute to the concentrated flavors, yet this vineyard always makes wines with luxurious tannins and mouth feel. Although there is more new oak this year, the toast has been kept to slightly less than medium allowing the fruit dominate the flavors.

**Harvest notes:** 2014 was another warm year following the heat of 2013. Despite the heat, it seemed like maturation happened at an even tempo right up until harvest. Thankfully the cool nights that happen in September on Red Mountain slowed the sugar production down a bit and let the flavors develop just enough. At the time, it seemed like the new normal would be to harvest in early September. However, no year ever seems like the last one. The phenolics and tannins in the grapes certainly fit the Obelisco style in 2014. With all of the crazy harvest fluctuations, the Obelisco vineyard on Red Mountain just seems to never disappoint us.

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