



GORDON

Estate

2013 *Block 3 Merlot*

ESTATE GROWN ~ KAMIAK VINEYARD



- **COMPOSITION:** 100% Merlot
- **AGING:** 22 months in 40% New French Oak
- **pH:** 3.64
- **TA:** 6.1g / 100mL
- **ALCOHOL:** 12.9%
- **PRODUCTION:** 435 cases
- **BOTTLED:** August 2015

VINTAGE

The 2013 growing season was one of the hottest on records, right in stride with 1998 and 2003. Hot, 90 degree temperatures came on in early spring, prompting an ear-lier than average bud break. This hot spell was followed up by welcome spring rains that helped establish healthy canopies early in the season with bloom occurring early in June. In-tense heat hung around from late June into mid September when a dramatic shift in weather brought us a nice cool, but dry fall allowing for good hang time.

WINEMAKING

Based on the success of our previous reserve Merlot we once again scoured the cellar looking for individual barrels of exceptional character. Patience and hard work were rewarded, as we found enough wine of merit to make our 2013 Block 3 Merlot. The individual cuvees were blended into the master and given 12 months of barrel aging to find a harmoni-ous voice. Gentle filtration and bottling culminated in September of 2014.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

This wine opens with a nose of brooding fruit, spice and subtle leather. The palate expands with flavors of blackberry, currant and black cherry followed by delicate herbs and savory spice. The body is well-structured with medium acid and well integrated tannin.