

## MERITAGE 2013



Cabernet Sauvignon 44% / Cabernet Franc 32% / Merlot 24%

Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 169 Bordeaux, France

Merlot Clone 181 Bordeaux, France

Cabernet Franc Clone 331 Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France

Alcohol	14.0%
Residual Sugar	1.55 g/L
Total Acidity	6.2 g/L
pH	3.71
Cases Produced	625
Released	2016
SKU	385401

## Carved from stone, fuelled by sun, a vineyard like no other

### Growing Conditions

The 2013 growing season commenced with an early start and a cool spring. June experienced wetter conditions, but a long and even summer created an ideal growing climate for the grapes. Autumn brought warm days with October being dry and a little cooler, enabling acidity levels and flavours to be in balance with sugar levels. The 2013 vintage was an excellent growing season following several cooler years with Growing Degree Days totaling 1,579, well above the historical average. The red wines are beautifully balanced showing ripe fruit and nicely integrated tannins.

### Terroir and Microclimate

Located high on a hillside overlooking the Similkameen Valley, Vanessa Vineyard's grapes are cultivated on 75 acres of sloping, well-drained, rocky terrain. The vines grow in rows of rocks, absorbing the day heat and imparting that warmth during the cooler nights. Planted in a west to southwest exposure, the rocky vineyard basks in the afternoon sun. Ideally situated, the vineyard benefits from a long growing season, with low yields of intensely ripe fruit. The unique stony site produces fruit with complex flavours and minerality that are truly distinctive.

### Winemaking

Crafted from only 100% estate grown and hand-picked fruit. The grapes were destemmed and underwent a gentle crush before small-batch fermentation and hand punch down to maximize flavour and extraction. This vintage is almost entirely comprised of free run juice with only a very small quantity of pressed juice added to balance the tannins. Each varietal was individually fermented and barrel aged for 8 months. The small lots were then carefully blended and the final assemblage was aged 12 additional months in American and French oak of which 60% were new barrels. Beautiful integration of the soil minerality gives the wine exceptional character and quality.

### Flavour Profile

A rich Cabernet-based cuvée, our 2013 Meritage is full-bodied and intense, yet elegant and feminine. A wine with excellent structure and concentrated flavour, this vintage is garnet red in the glass and has gorgeous floral aromas with delicate herbaceous undertones. The ripe, silky tannins are balanced by fresh cherry, dark berry, coffee and licorice flavours. The fruit and oak are particularly well integrated with a smooth, lingering finish. Enjoy as you would any fine, Left Bank Bordeaux style blend.



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