

# TERO

## ESTATES

2011 Merlot

Walla Walla Valley AVA | 46 Cases Produced

### Vineyard

Windrow Vineyard is the oldest commercially planted vineyard (1981) in the Walla Walla AVA. Talks to create the appellation happened on this soil. Situated on a bench created by thousands of years ago where Lower Dry Creek empties into the southern Walla Walla Valley, Windrow has a rare combination of heat during the day followed by a cool breeze flowing out of the Blue Mountains in the evenings. This diurnal shift allows us to grow our grapes until later in the season, increasing maturity while retaining enough acidity to maintain balance and structure. Ellisford Silt Loam is prevalent in this part of the Walla Walla Valley AVA. Windrow varies from deep deposits of windblown loess to shallow layers over gravelly cobble.

Herb's Block is the tiniest block off of our 25 acre vineyard. Herb's Block is 0.31 acres. Great wines come from small acreage. The elevation here is 860 feet and we pull off an average of  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton from the whole block.

### Winemaking

In November of 2010, a frost hit that stunted or halted much of the valley's production for 2011. We were lucky enough to survive all of that. Our tiniest block was a screaming success. It sits in a small docket in the vineyard that protected it from the extreme cold of November, 2010 as well as saving it from the high winds that we saw in the fall of 2011. These tough vines pulled through a freak vintage with the same, consistent personality and body, and for that we are grateful. 50% new French oak, 50% neutral oak allowed us to get that full bodied vanilla and toast without overpowering Merlot's chocolate, fruit and earth aromas that we so crave. Of course, when there are only two barrels, the math is pretty easy.

### Tasting Notes

Our merlot is a limited- production wine. This delightful, deep ruby colored merlot offers up an immediate punch of black cherries, paired with earth, cigar box, juniper berries and green olive on the nose followed by a complex palate comprised of layers of white pepper, dried cherry, black licorice and minerals with bright acids and firm tannins.