

New

MULLAN ROAD CELLARS Columbia Valley Red Wine 2014

REGION: America / Washington

GRAPES: 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec

Mullan Road Cellars is a journey into Washington winemaking led by Dennis Cakebread of Cakebread Cellars. Drawn by the high quality of wines and the camaraderie of the Walla Walla wine community, Dennis and winemaker Aryn Morell set out to create an elegant, complex Bordeaux-style red blend. Fruit comes from three prime locations: the famed Seven Hills Vineyard on the southern edge of the Walla Walla Valley contributes tannin and structure, Stillwater Creek Vineyard on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills adds brawn and volume, and Lawrence Vineyards in the Frenchman Hills lend elegance. Dennis named his wine "Mullan Road Cellars" in honor of Lieutenant John Mullan, who built the first wagon trail across the Rockies over 600 miles from Ft. Benton in Montana to Ft. Walla Walla in Washington.

HARVEST NOTE

The 2014 vintage was warm and dry, providing ideal growing conditions for producing wines with great fruit and refined tannins. The wines show the ripeness of the warm summer days and the freshness that our cooler evenings provide. The majority of our vineyard sites are at elevations above 1,300ft, giving us the perfect microclimate for producing ripe fruit while maintaining great acidity. The 2014 blend displays more forward fruit and texture than the previous two vintages allowing for early enjoyment. Although the wine has a more supple profile it will age gracefully as all the key components, fruit, acid and tannins are in perfect harmony.

TASTING NOTE

Fresh blackberries, plum skin and fresh juniper berries intermixed with dried strawberry and sandalwood. Swirling brings up ripe black currants, baking spice and crème de cassis. The palate is dense and polished with superfine tannins and great length. It's mouthwateringly fresh with ripe but restrained fruit and terrific presence.

FOOD PAIRING

Pairs well with any red meat on the grill, pork tenderloin, heavy cheeses and grilled vegetables.

TECHNICAL DATA

APPELLATION: Columbia Valley, Washington

PH: 3.84

ACIDITY: 0.56 grams/100 ml

ABV: 14.3%

AGING: 17 months in 40% new French and American oak barrels

POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- **An elegant and age worthy blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec**
- **Fruit comes from the famed Seven Hills Vineyard in Walla Walla Valley, Stillwater Creek Vineyard on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills, and Lawrence Vineyards in the Frenchman Hills**
- **Wine made by WA native Aryn Morell, who has extensive experience in the Columbia Valley as well as with high-profile Napa wineries**

