



2005 Merlot

~Winemaker Notes/Vintage Information ~

Vintage:	2005
Variety:	Merlot
Blend:	85% Merlot, 9% Syrah, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, & 1% Cabernet Franc
Components:	Alcohol- 15.26 %; pH- 3.46; TA- .63
Appellation:	Wahluke Slope
Vineyard/Source:	Riverbend Vineyards, Mattawa , WA
Winemaker:	Mike Wade; co-owner Fielding Hills Winery
Harvest:	October 2005 early morning hand harvested into small 25 pound harvest lugs
Vinification:	Harvest lugs are individually inspected, with grapes clusters then stemmed and crushed directly into small "one-ton" fermentors. The must is then allowed to settle for 24 hours when a combination of Prise de Mousse & Pasteur Red yeast was added. Twice each day the must is checked and punched down. When nearly dry, the free run wine is transferred directly into oak barrels with the remaining must gently pressed in a small press. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered resulting in superb color, clarity, and flavor.
Aging:	19 months in a combination of American and French oak barrels; 77% new
Production:	199 cases
Bottling date:	May 18, 2007
Release date:	October 1, 2007
Tasting Notes:	<p>“A gorgeous dried potpourri nose leads the way to flavors of cranberry, flowers and milk chocolate on the palate. The bright acidity keeps these flavors dancing along to the finish. An agile merlot that will compliment a wide variety of food pairings.” B.R.</p> <p>“Unusually lively Merlot, a great food wine, yet rich and full bodied. Scents are of barrel spice and black cherry fruit, sweet pie cherry, red raspberry and a hint of pie spice. Different than most Merlots- sweet red plum, pie cherry, and raspberry dominate the fruit flavors. The finish shows soft barrel toast and white pepper. Tannins are soft, in balance with a bright acidity held in check by a luxuriant intensity.” J. Y. @ avalonwine.com</p>

Fielding Hills Winery was started in July 2000 by Mike & Karen Wade. The grapes are from estate grown, family owned RiverBend Vineyards in Mattawa, WA. The winery is located in East Wenatchee, WA. The winemaking methods utilize a small lot, hand crafted style.

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