



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2013 “Beau Terre Vineyard” Merlot

Production: 898 cases

Composition: 80% Merlot & 20% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyards: Beau Terre

Appellations: Oak Knoll, Atlas Peak & Carneros

Elevations: Valley floor - 1200 ft.

Cooperage: 52% new Oak (30% French Oak Stavin, 20% Truett Hungarian, 25% American - Radoux, 25% French oak - Bossuet)

Alcohol: 14.8%, TA 0.58, pH 3.58

Bottled: February 24, 2015

Release date: Fall 2015

Release price: \$40.00

Hill Family Estate takes Merlot seriously, and they believe the Merlot grape has a lot to offer that Cabernet Sauvignon cannot quite achieve. The Beau Terre vineyards are centerpieces for Doug Hill’s accumulated viticultural knowledge. From the row spacing to the trellising, the row direction and the clones selected, everything has been carefully thought out to give Merlot its best expression. In 2013, only the 181 Clone ended up in this Merlot, and it received a 10% bleed the day of crush. We blended early with Cabernet Sauvignon from Beau Terre to give it structure and density, and it gained in balance and complexity its whole time in barrel (15 months).

Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:

The wine has a deep, generous jammy blackberry nose with a hint of ripe strawberry and sweet mocha. Lively and balanced on the palate, young and curvy, with little pockets of tannin going off down the long finish. Acidity works to lift the blackberry and boysenberry fruit over the toasty mocha oak centered in the middle of the wine.