

# BEAST

## 2012 Wildebeest

### **Nature of the BEAST**

The mercurial nature of our BEAST wines allows us the freedom to explore new varietals, new vineyards and new blends beyond the classic Buty portfolio. Made with a clear vision and voice, these wines have developed their own faithful following. Our Wildebeest and Sphinx are available nationally in fine restaurants and wine shops.

### **Lair of the BEAST**

A denizen of the Columbia Valley, our 2012 Wildebeest hails from far and wide. Approximately half of the blend includes syrah, cabernet sauvignon and malbec from Phinny Hill Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. Wildebeest also spotlights syrah and mourvèdre from our own Rockgarden Estate in the acclaimed Milton-Freewater alluvial fan district of Walla Walla Valley, as well as a delicious dose of 20% cabernet franc from the legendary Conner Lee Vineyard.

### **Season of the BEAST**

2012 was a great vintage, delivering exactly what we look for in each vineyard and varietal. Spring was temperate and summer was dry, with perfect weather and no extreme heat events. In the run-up to harvest we had ideal temperatures, allowing us to pick exactly when we wanted with a perfect balance of sugar and acid.

### **Winemaking**

Our 2012 Wildebeest was blended from 41% syrah, 20% cabernet franc, 18% cabernet sauvignon, 15% malbec and 6% mourvèdre, with every variety from each vineyard fermented and aged separately for 21 months. In order to allow Wildebeest to display its native fruit and spice character, the barrels were generally older (from two to five years), and included 93% French oak and 7% American oak, with 7% new oak overall. The alcohol content is 14.2%.

### **Notes Upon Encountering the Wildebeest**

Driven by the dark berry jam notes of our Phinny Hill syrah and the compelling savory spice character of syrah from our Rockgarden Estate, this lush and juicy wine is the finest Wildebeest we have ever made. Cabernet sauvignon and franc add to the compelling structure of this noble BEAST, with malbec contributing lovely floral and red berry notes, and a dash of mourvèdre adding complexity. Throughout, firm tannins, alluring aromatics and a creamy texture underscore this wine's purity and power.