

BEAST

2014 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 2014 Wildebeest hails from far and wide. 39% of the grapes (syrah, grenache and mourvèdre) come from our own Rockgarden Estate in The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA. An additional 34% of the grapes (cabernet sauvignon, malbec and syrah) for this lush and layered wine come from Phinny Hill Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills, with the final 27% (merlot and cabernet franc) sourced from the legendary Conner Lee Vineyard.

Season of the BEAST

2014 delivered abundant heat throughout the growing season. To address the heat, we tailored our irrigation, crop size and shading to the needs of each vineyard. In the run up to harvest, Mother Nature delivered ideal temperate weather, which allowed us to pick exactly when we wished.

Winemaking

Our 2014 Wildebeest was blended from 28% cabernet sauvignon, 24% syrah, 16% merlot, 12% malbec, 10% cabernet franc, 7% mourvèdre and 3% grenache. Every variety from each individual vineyard was fermented and aged separately for 19 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 100% French oak, with 6% new oak overall. The alcohol content is 14.2%.

Notes Upon Encountering the Wildebeest

Offering both lush fruit and savory spice, this wine shows why we love blending Bordeaux and Rhône grapes. The aromas leap from the glass, with layers of jammy fruit, root beer and black pepper. On the palate, a core of cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc provides both structure and weight, with the syrah, merlot and malbec accentuating the wine's silky mouthfeel and red fruit notes. While the fruit flavors are rich and voluptuous, vibrant natural acidity from the grenache and mourvèdre keeps the flavors bright and poised, carrying the wine to a long, satisfying finish.

Release Date: Halloween 2017