

# BEAST

## 2016 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 is available nationally in fine restaurants and wine shops.

### **Lair of the BEAST**

Throughout the wilds of Washington State, we have spent years hunting the most elusive of BEASTS. Prized for their uncommon grace and power, these sleek and alluring creatures roam among the vines of legendary Columbia Valley vineyards. 46% (syrah, cabernet sauvignon and grenache) of our 2016 Wildebeest Red Wine comes from our own Rockgarden Estate Vineyard in The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater, 46% (syrah and cabernet sauvignon) comes from Phinny Hill Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills and the remaining 8% (merlot and cabernet franc) comes from the famed Conner Lee Vineyard.

### **Season of the BEAST**

While the 2016 growing season delivered our fourth year in a row of early budbreak and flowering, a perfectly timed mid-summer cooldown provided ideal hangtime, while preserving the natural acidity that is so integral to our style. Gorgeous clusters of grapes arrived at our winery in pristine condition.

### **Winemaking**

Our 2016 Wildebeest was blended from 58% syrah, 30% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc, 4% grenache and 2% merlot. Every variety from each vineyard was fermented and aged separately for 20 months. To allow Wildebeest to display its native fruit and spice, the barrels were generally older (from two to five years), and included 100% French oak, with 3% new oak overall. The alcohol content is 13.7%.

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

Combining the rich, lush fruit of grapes grown in the deep soils of Phinny Hill and Conner Lee, with the savory elements of syrah grown in the thin rocky soils of Rockgarden Estate, this is a layered and alluring wine. On the nose, aromas of boysenberry jam and chocolate-covered strawberries are followed by notes of bacon, cracked black pepper and anise. The palate is firm and generous, with fine-grained tannins and bright acidity adding poise and purity to flavors of cherry pie and raspberry, as well as hints of black licorice and spice.