



# GOOSE RIDGE

ESTATE WINERY

## 2007 ESTATE MERLOT GOOSE RIDGE ESTATE VINEYARD COLUMBIA VALLEY

**GOOSE RIDGE ESTATE VINEYARDS AND WINERY** is a family-owned and operated winery dedicated to limited production, handcrafted wines from select, estate-grown grapes. The Monson family's vineyard is planted on a south-facing slope in Washington's Columbia Valley adjacent to Red Mountain that consistently yields rich, ripe grapes. The family has farmed in the Columbia Valley for four decades and is known for their commitment to quality. Goose Ridge Vineyard is built on that tradition.

### WINEMAKER

Acclaimed winemaker Charlie Hoppes has his pick of the vineyard. Fermenting and aging wines in small lots from a handful of blocks carefully selected for their exceptional character and complexity is exactly what the Monsons had in mind for Goose Ridge when they founded the winery in 1999.

### VINEYARD

When the family decided to plant grapes on a sun-drenched hill adjacent to Red Mountain, they did so under the guidance of Dr. Walter Clore, considered by many the "father" of the Washington wine industry. Dr. Clore was impressed by the site's gentle, south-facing slope and the growing area's warm temperatures. He encouraged the Monsons to plant vineyard rows north-to-south to maximize sun exposure, and he also advised the family to plant the site in small blocks to facilitate estate-grown wines managed for low yields through careful pruning and thinning practices. As a result of the vineyard's attention to detail, grapes ripen evenly and the wines are consistently ripe, rich and fruit-forward.

### VINTAGE

The 2007 vintage consisted of hot summer weather that gave way to cool conditions in mid-September, allowing Washington grape growers and winemakers to harvest grapes under ideal circumstances. When temperatures remained cool through October under clear skies, 2007 became a vintage when hang time counted for flavor, not alcohol.

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"Our 2007 Estate Merlot offers a rich and velvety texture and a bouquet that displays ripe fruit with notes of cedar and spice. Robust flavors of cherry and red berry are accented with hints of toasty oak that fill the mouth. The finish is long and silky, reinforced by smooth and assertive tannins. This wine was aged for 22 months in 58% French oak and 42% American oak barrels."

*Charlie Hoppes*  
Consulting Winemaker

**APPELLATION:** Columbia Valley

**BLEND:** 100% Goose Ridge Estate Merlot

**TOTAL ACIDITY:** .87

**pH:** 3.76

**ALCOHOL:** 14.6%

