



# MISSION HILL

*Family Estate*

## TERROIR COLLECTION WHISPERING HILL 2016 ORGANIC MERLOT

*The uniqueness of site and soil; a depiction of the diverse Okanagan microclimates.*

### WHISPERING HILL

This vineyard, originally a fruit orchard, has been farmed organically for more than 40 years with soils that are high in nutrients and quite porous. The west side vineyard location of our Whispering Hill Organic Merlot results in a significant amount of morning sun exposure, giving way to the shade by afternoon. This leads to late ripening fruit that is more delicate and intensely flavourful. The hillsides are dotted by dense stands of Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Their swaying motion and the stillness in the area inspired the name Whispering Hill. The label image reflects the rough and seamless nature of cover crops in the organic vineyard rows, one of our sustainability practices.

### FLAVOUR PROFILE

Focused, bright and inviting, with a hint of plum, currant and gentle spice flavours, flowing smoothly against polished tannins into a long and harmonious finish.

**ESTATE** | Oliver West, Certified Organic

**ELEVATION** | 356m - 385m

**SOILS** | Site is atop an alluvial fan from Reid Creek that runs through the estate. Rocky, well drained soil high in organic matter and nutrients. Organically farmed for more than 40 years.

**SEASONAL CONDITIONS** | Sun exposure tempered in afternoon permitting enhanced ripening through extended hang-time.

**CLONAL SELECTION** | French ENTAV clones 181 and 347

**CANOPY** | All steel trellis to support organic farming; VSP and cane pruned.

**MATURATION** | 18 months in French oak, 30% new

**ABV** | 14.9%   **TA** | 5.5 g/L   **PH** | 3.76

