# HOUSE WINE

**2011 MOUNTAIN MERLOT** 

HOUSE WINE is the wine you drink anytime with anything... honest, tasty & real.

# **COLUMBIA VALLEY**

Washington's success with vinifera grapes is due in large measure to the state's unique geography. The vineyards are planted on the east side of the Cascade Mountains which serve to protect the region from marine weather off the Pacific coast and limit rainfall to just 6 - 8 inches annually. Low rainfall and free-draining soils allow vineyard managers to control vine vigor in order to promote flavor development in the grapes. Warm daytime temperatures ripen fruit to perfection. Cool autumn nights protect the grapes' natural acidity. Creating wines with perfect balance and flavors.

# **VINTAGE NOTE**

The 2011 growing season was on schedule with bud break in early April, but a cool, wet spring led to delayed flowering and reduced fruit set across many varieties. An unusually cool summer produced dramatic differences in ripening between warmer and cooler sites, with veraison extending well into September in some cooler areas. However, naturally low yields, combined with over a month of consistently warm weather from late September through late October, produced phenolic ripeness and flavor development with extraordinary natural acidity. Overall, this vintage will show balanced and elegant wines with lower alcohol and higher acidity.

## **TASTING NOTE**

Cocoa Powder & black currants is the aroma of this awesome wine. It is so smooth it gives velvet a run for its money!

### **FOOD PARING**

Pizza & Burgers

## **BLEND**

79% Merlot / 9% Syrah / 9% Cabernet Sauvignon / 3% Cabenet Sauvignon

# **BOTTLING**

Alc: 13,5% RS: 1,00%

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