



*Nestled in a pristine alpine valley in southwestern Oregon's rugged Siskiyou Mountain range, Foris Vineyards has been a true viticultural pioneer for over thirty five years. Specializing in Alsatian varietals and Pinot Noir, Foris Vineyards consistently garners accolades for both quality and value. The dramatic natural beauty and purity of our surrounding environment is reflected in the vibrant epicurean wines that have earned us a place in some of America's finest restaurants and wine shops.*

## **2015 Merlot, *Rogue Valley, Oregon***

Established in 1976, the Gerber family has been farming grapes for over forty years, specializing in Alsace white varieties and Pinot Noir, which are especially well suited to our microclimate. Foris wines are defined by the unique alpine location of our estate vineyards at 1500 feet elevation. Located in the southwestern region of the Rogue Valley AVA, our wines are a true expression of the unique soils and alpine climate of the Illinois Valley in Rogue Valley, Oregon.

Harvest completed early in the Rogue Valley with Bordeaux varieties ripening quickly and being harvested in early October. Warm summer conditions resulted in another early and compact harvest in 2015. The wines produced in 2015 will be similar to those produced in the vintages of 2014 in flavor and fruit characteristics.

Our 2015 Merlot is composed of two lots. The fruit from both lots was harvested in late September from Evans Creek Vineyard in Rogue Valley, on a hillside with fruit that is beautifully concentrated. The fruit was hand-harvested, de-stemmed, and fermented whole berry in small open-top fermentation bins. The three-quarter ton bins are gently punched down for the duration of the 10 to 14 day fermentation. Once primary fermentation is complete, the wine is racked to French oak barrels (25% once filled) for 18 months of barrel aging.

Our 2015 Merlot is a full-bodied aromatic wine with black cherry and plum. It is full bodied with red and black fruit and savory accents of forest floor, cedar, pencil, and leather, wrapped in balanced tannin. It is an elegant interpretation of the type of Bordeaux wines the Rogue Valley can deliver in great warm vintages.

Harvested 9/23

Average brix at harvest: 24.4

Analysis at bottling: 3.69 pH, 6.1 g/L TA, 13.9% alcohol

Bottled 6/13/17

Cases Produced: 98