



## *Fratelli Perata Winery*

### **Fratelli Perata 2014 Merlot, Estate**

Has this variety become the Rodney Dangerfield of wines? No respect? Sometimes it seems like it, but we think not. Our Merlot is not simple, silly, easily dismissed, nor easily forgotten. So we should give it a fanciful name like “Big Daddy” and it would be given the respect that it deserves. Then *some people* who say they don’t like Merlot would happily drink *this* Merlot. Luckily, our full-bodied Merlots have always had their following. We haven’t had to do much arm twisting to make the vintages disappear. And with this tiny vintage, it will disappear way too fast for us.

This latest vintage is a definite “open at breakfast, drink at dinner” wine that needs decanting. It will always be rich and lush. There is a huge range of flavors that need time to integrate, like any special occasion wine. Have some respect, let it age. It has a lot to enchant your senses. We declare that you will not be able to forget this wine. Here is our latest, maybe greatest, Merlot. Make the Asparagus Salad a few times, until you perfect it to your taste. Then you might open a bottle of Merlot to pair with it.

Harvested: September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Brix: 25.5

pH: 3.67

Fermented: 11 days in 1.5 ton open top fermenters

Pressed: 45% New American oak barrels, 55% neutral barrels

Alcohol: 14.2%

Bottled: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Production: 84 cases (thanks to the Dreaded Drought of 2012-2016)

Aging: Oh, I am young. Forgive me, I’ll behave later. I need a little air (open and let breathe for a few hours). See me in two to ten years. Drink Fall 2018 to 2022.