



HIGHTOWER
CELLARS

HANDPICKED HANDSORTED HANDMADE

2000 Merlot
Columbia Valley
Washington State

90% Merlot
10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Artz Vineyard on Red Mountain, Boushey
Alder Ridge

Exceptional grape sources and care in winemaking made the 2000 Hightower Merlot balanced and satin textured. The nose has a complex array of aromas dominated by black plum and berry fruits supported by undertones of spice and vanilla oak. The spice notes are subtle and sweet, not pungent. The mouth feel is silky and well layered with soft tannins. Plum flavors linger on the extended finish.

The grapes for this wine were handpicked and handsorted to ensure that only the best grapes were used. We fermented the fruit in small open-top containers no taller than they are wide to extract greater flavor and color by having more juice in contact with the grape skins. After gently pressing the wine from the skins the wine aged in small oak barrels for twenty months. During barrel aging we gravity racked the wine off its lees with a siphon. Separate lots were blended and bottled in the spring of 2002.

We produced 267 cases.