

# 2015 Meritage



Cabernet Franc 42% /  
Cabernet Sauvignon 31% / Merlot 27%  
Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 169  
Bordeaux, France  
Merlot Clone 181 Bordeaux, France  
Cabernet Franc Clone 331  
Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France

Alcohol 14.0%  
Residual Sugar 5.7 g/L  
Total Acidity 6.5 g/L  
pH 3.7  
Brix 28  
Cases Produced 615  
Released 2021  
SKU 160895

**VANESSA**  
VINEYARD

## Flavour Profile

A rich Cabernet-based cuvée, our 2015 Meritage is a BC powerhouse while being extremely luxurious. Elegantly layered and bursting with fragrant aromas of ground coffee, sage, sweet cherry, chocolate, and currants. Big, bold flavours of blueberry, ripe figs, cocoa, dark cherry, and French vanilla on the palate. This Meritage shows excellent structure and concentrated flavour, leading to lingering, silky tannins that are well balanced and full-bodied. Enjoy with rosemary braised lamb, herbed grilled meats, and black lentils.

## Growing Conditions

The 2015 growing season started early. Record heat units were being recorded from June to September. Average Growing Degree Days in Osoyoos were 1,764, but at Vanessa they were significantly higher at 2,049. This resulted in our red grapes being riper with a fuller fruit expression and softer, more rounded tannins. In the last ten years, 2015 was the hottest year ever for Similkameen's Vanessa Vineyard.

## Winemaking

Crafted from only 100% estate grown and hand-picked fruit. The grapes were destemmed and underwent a gentle crush before small-batch fermentation and hand punch down to maximize flavour and extraction. This vintage is almost entirely comprised of free run juice with only a very small quantity of pressed juice added to balance the tannins. Each varietal was individually fermented, and barrel aged for 8 months. The small lots were then carefully blended, and the final assemblage was aged 12 additional months in American and French oak of which 40% were new barrels. Beautiful integration of the soil minerality gives the wine exceptional character and quality.