

## TASTING NOTES

William Kelly of the Wine Advocate, “A blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Artist Series Morris Blend reproduces on its label an oil painting by the American Abstract Impressionist painter Carl Morris. The wine offers up attractive aromas of crushed cassis, pencil shavings and toasted gingerbread, followed by a medium to full-bodied, velvety palate with a deep core of savory fruit and youthfully chewy structuring tannins. The finish is long and nicely delineated. This was my favorite of these offerings from àMaurice Cellars, and I’d expect it to reach its peak in the next decade.” 93+PTS

## WINEMAKING NOTES

After being hand-picked, hand sorted, and de-stemmed the fruit is fermented in small lot stainless steel jacketed 2.3 ton fermenters with the cap punched down and pumped over. Malolactic fermented in barrel for two months, then aged in 100% French Oak (40% new) for 23 months. It is then bottled, unfined and unfiltered.

## VINTAGE AND VINEYARD NOTES

2015 was the earliest grapes have ever been harvested in the state of Washington as well as for àMaurice. We picked our first lot in August! It was the warmest year on record and proved to be a warm fall as well. The skins thickened due to the intense and lasting heat that created density and richness in the resulting wine. We picked as fast as we could to maintain freshness and natural acidity.

## VINEYARDS

**Bacchus, Dionysis** – Kent Waliser & Derek Way (Pasco, WA Columbia Valley AVA) 800 ft. elevation, planted 1972 in sandy silt southwest facing hillside on the Columbia River.

**Gamache** – Roger Gamache (Mesa, WA Wahluke Slope AVA) 900 ft. elevation, planted 1985 in sandy silt with “caliche” rocks on a warm south facing slope affording good natural air drainage above the valley.

**Weinbau** – Kent Waliser & Miguel Rodriguez (Matawa, WA Wahluke Slope AVA) 750 ft. elevation, planted 1985 in windblown loess 6 inches top soil above 60 ft of gravel on a hillside with southern exposure. Pre-Missoula Flood.

# 2015

## The Artist “Morris”

<b>Blend</b>	38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Columbia Valley AVA, Wahluke Slope AVA
<b>Production</b>	533 cases
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.3%
<b>Total Acidity</b>	5.9
<b>pH</b>	3.85
<b>Winemaker</b>	Anna Schafer Cohen & Nick Schafer

