

BROWNE

FAMILY VINEYARDS

Inspired by the greatness of one man: William Bitner Browne, grandfather of proprietor Andrew Browne. Integrity and excellence are the standards upon which Browne wines are created. Browne Family is premium Washington wine, 15 years in the making before its first vintage debuted, crafted with the utmost quality and enjoyment in mind.

“A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER.”

- Andrew Browne



2015 MERLOT

VINTAGE NOTE

The 2015 Washington state harvest will go down in history as the vintage where parts of the state persevered above irrigation restrictions, several 100-degree days, and a few late-season regional wildfires that spared growers from any problems. It will also be noted as the year with a record surge in growing degree days, a harvest that started early and ended by mid-October, and a bounty that surpassed even the 227,000 ton record set during the 2014 Washington harvest. Fruit flavors from this harvest are concentrated and intense, with moderate berry size, excellent phenolic ripeness and balanced acidity.

WINEMAKING

The fruit for Browne Family was harvested at the peak of Phenolic ripeness and tested on the vine for flavor and structure. Once harvested, all grapes were handpicked into small ½ ton bins and immediately de-stemmed. The winery “crusher,” used to de-stem fruit was removed to maintain 70% whole berries during fermentation. This allowed for great extraction of color and increased the maturity of tannins making the wine more approachable. After pressing occurred, primary fermentation was completed in stainless steel. The new wine was then transferred to 59-gallon French Oak casks; selected for their intense Merlot varietal characteristics and to balance the fruit tannins.

TASTING NOTE

Beautiful aromatics of violets and red roses lead into a medium to heavy bodied wine with a mix of dark chocolate, van cherries and cassis flavors on the palate. Silky soft and integrated tannins, this wine finishes with fresh black fig and red cherry flavors. A cellar-worthy wine that is drinking well now, but has even greater potential with age.

CELLARING

Crafted as a cellar worthy wine; enjoy now or cellar for up to ten years.

2015 – 90 POINTS, *Wine & Spirits*

2014 – 89 POINTS, *James Suckling*

2012 – 90 POINTS, *Wine Spectator*

2011 – 92 POINTS, *Tasting Panel*

BLEND

100% Merlot

APPELLATION

Columbia Valley

GRAPE SOURCE

Mirage, Willard, Blackrock

VINTAGE

2015

WINEMAKER

John Freeman

HARVEST DATE

Sept. 3–28, 2015

YEAST

Andante

AGED

22 months

OAK

44% New French oak

BOTTLED

August 1, 2017

TA

5.6 g/l

PH

3.67

ALC.

14.2%