



## EARLY MOUNTAIN

### 2014 Aylor

**Vineyard Block:** Quaker Run Vineyard, Highland Orchard Vineyard, Honah Lee Vineyard

**Composition:** 85% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot, 6% Tannat

**Vintage Description:** An unusually cold winter and the risk of spring frost led to uncertain vine health and delayed budbreak by two weeks. The summer was unusually mild, in some ways similar to 2013. Sugar accumulation was slow, acidity remained relatively high until a September heat wave ripened the late-pick whites and reds quickly.

**Winemaker Note:** 2014 was our first vintage working with Merlot from the oldest vines at Quaker Run, and this wine was sourced from our favorite barrels from this singular site. Merlot makes up 85% of the blend with Petit Verdot and Tannat comprising the remainder for added structure. Upon taking over the farming at Quaker, we realized that this site had the potential to seriously elevate the quality of our wines, especially the reds, and we are excited to share this special first portrait of the layered density that comes from mature vines planted on an exposed, steep rocky slope at elevation.

**Wine description:** As with Novum and Eluvium, we see the more nuanced, ethereal quality of the 2014 vintage, but here we have added concentration on the palate without feeling heavy or ponderous. The aromatics are pure with dark red and blue fruits, wood, spice, and a floral quality that feels like the shadows of late evening. It is far from a blockbuster, but here, in its youth, it is tightly wound, requesting the patience of cellar aging or some hours in a decanter.

**Food pairing:** Ryan?

**Cellaring:** Best from 2019 onward, but can be enjoyed now with time in a decanter.

**Technical:**

- Bottled: May 18th, 2016
- Cases produced: 173
- Yeast: Ambient and Cultured
- Alcohol: 13.1% abv
- pH: 3.65
- TA: 5.7 g/L
- RS: Dry