



Vineyard Overview

OVERVIEW

Spring Valley Vineyard is situated 12 miles northeast of Walla Walla, spread amid the picturesque wheat fields of southeastern Washington with the Blue Mountains providing the backdrop. The initial block of Merlot was planted in 1993 on a south-southwest facing hillside. The vines follow the north-south slope of the hills in vertical rows, an orientation that, combined with the declination of the slope, allows the vines to take optimal advantage of air drainage, sunshine, and the reflective nature of the surrounding wheat fields

Great care is taken when caring for the vineyard. Every grape is tended by hand, including crop thinning, leaf pulling, and harvesting, as well as hand-burying individual canes to protect them from the cold winters of southeastern Washington.

In the summer of 2007, nearly 64 acres of new vineyards were planted. Today, Spring Valley Vineyard consists of 109 acres of grapevines including Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Malbec.

APPELLATION

Walla Walla Valley

PLANTED

Initial blocks planted Spring 1993

New plantings Summer 2007

FIRST HARVEST DATE

In 1995 Walla Walla area winemakers began using Spring Valley Vineyard grapes for their select wines. By 1998 the wine that was being produced from these grapes proved to be of very high quality, and in 1999 the Derbys began producing Estate grown and bottled Spring Valley Vineyard wines.

TOTAL ACRES

109, including 63.83 acres of new vine plantings

ACRES BY VARIETY

Original plantings (planted 1993-2006): 19.6-Merlot; 6.9-Cabernet Franc; 11.2-Cabernet Sauvignon; 3.4-Syrah; 3.0-Petit Verdot; 1.1-Malbec

2007 plantings: 10.23-Merlot; 21.0-Cabernet Franc; 17.7-Cabernet Sauvignon; 7.4-Syrah; 5.5-Petit Verdot; 2.0-Malbec

VINE DENSITY

Original plantings: 726 plants per acre; 10' between row

New plantings: 968 plants per acre; 9' between rows

SOIL

Deep Loess, which is moderately drained with some water-holding capacity

ELEVATION

1,200'-1,800' sloping downhill North to South, new sites in a South to West slope

ORIENTATION

The two new sites are located due south of the original vineyard, within a half mile. The new sites have the same topography as the original vineyard, although one is slightly higher at 1,800 feet, and the row orientation is slightly different.

This orientation of both old and new sites, coupled with the declination of slope, allow the vines optimal use of the air drainage, sunshine, and the reflective nature of the surrounding wheat fields.