



2005 Muleskinner

Merlot

Spring Valley Vineyard was established in 1993 on wheat land in Spring Valley, Walla Walla County; land that has been farmed by the Corkrum family for five generations. Evaluation of the terroir revealed an excellent environment for growing wine grapes. With elevation between 1,200 and 1,500 feet, today Spring Valley maintains a forty-acre vineyard made up of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, and Syrah.

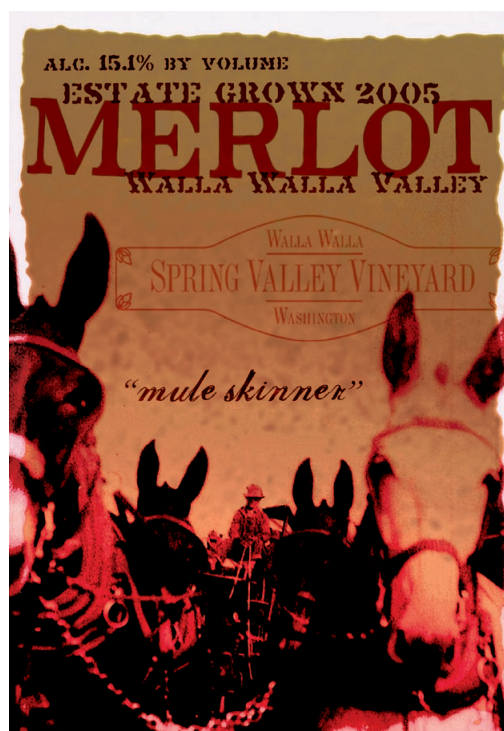
Placed on a south-southwest facing hillside, the vines follow the north-south slope of the hills in vertical rows. This orientation, coupled with the declination of slope affords the vines optimal sunshine, cold air, drainage, and takes advantage of the reflective nature of the surrounding hills.

Following the tradition of Uriah, Frederick and Nina Lee Corkrum, Shari Corkrum Derby and her husband Dean Derby continue to operate the wheat, vineyard and winery. Dean's brother, Gaynor Derby, manages the vineyard. The hard work, traditional values and deep family ties that have kept the ranch going for over 100 years is mirrored in Spring Valley Vineyard's signature offerings.

Winemaker Tasting Notes:

Aromas of strawberry, cassis and raspberry. Oak is integrated. A juicy wine with lots of red fruit in mouth and a hint of dusty straw. Condensed tannins give a rich mouth feel and a long finish.

~ Serge Lavielle, Winemaker



Blend:

94% Merlot, 6% other

Aging:

19 months in 92% French oak and 8% American oak barrels

Appellation:

Walla Walla Valley

Vineyard:

100% Spring Valley Vineyard
Estate Bottled

springvalleyvineyard.com