



Technical Data

Blend

100% Merlot

Aging

16 months in 100% French oak barrels

Appellation

Walla Walla Valley

Vineyard

100% Spring Valley Vineyard Estate Bottled

Case Production

127 cases

SPRING VALLEY VINEYARD

2004 Mule Skinner Merlot Walla Walla Valley

Name Origin

This 100% Merlot is named after the job Frederick Corkrum held while working the farm. You see, Frederick was called a mule skinner, a name that represented his job on the farm; caring for and driving the mules in all aspects of the farming operation.

A Family Tradition

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.

The Vineyard

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.

Winemaker Tasting Notes

This wine opens with a clean and rustic nose; scents of strawberry, raspberry and black currant liqueur mingle with hints of cedar and dry hay aromas. The soft palate offers ripe prune flavors; the mid palate is bright with clean, crushed, dark fruit flavors. The tannins lead way into a lingering finish with flavors of roasted cocoa, coffee and dried cherries.

~Serge Laville, Winemaker

springvalleyvineyard.com