



2004 Nina Lee Syrah

Walla Walla Valley

NAME ORIGIN

The names given to Spring Valley Vineyard wines are a tribute to the family members who have struggled and succeeded in farming the same land where the winery now flourishes. This 100% Syrah comes from the wife of Frederick Corkrum. They met in 1928 after she finished performing her Vaudeville act at the local theater. They married immediately and began their struggle to stay afloat during the great depression. Following Frederick's death in 1957, Nina Lee didn't want to depend on anyone for her livelihood and continued to operate the ranch on her own. Nina Lee passed away after 21 years of successful farming.

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 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 terroir demonstrates a mesoclimate that is ideally suited for growing wine grapes. The unique microclimate of Spring Valley also allows the grapes to develop their own distinct characteristics.

Initially, a two acre block of Merlot was planted in 1993 and 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, allow the vines optimal use of the sunshine, drainage, and the reflective nature of the surrounding hills.

Great care is taken when caring for the vineyard. Under Gaynor's direction, every grape is tended to by hand, including crop thinning, leaf pulling, and harvesting, not to mention hand burying individual canes to protect them from the cold, hard winters of southeast Washington.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

The nose is earthy, ripe and sweet with scents of dried wild grass, violet, and white chocolate. Flavors of cherry, caramel and chocolate mingle on the palate. This wine has a huge mouth feel, an attribute that has been consistent across vintages. The long finish is fruity, juicy and covered with fatty tannins.

-Serge Laville



TECHNICAL DATA:

BLEND: 100% Syrah
TA: 0.69 g/100 ml
PH: 3.73
ALCOHOL: 16.1%

AGING:

21 months in 85% French oak and
15% Hungarian oak, 28.5% new oak

APPELLATION:

Walla Walla Valley

VINEYARD:

100% Spring Valley Vineyard Estate Bottled

CASE PRODUCTION:

349 cases