

SPRING VALLEY

V I N E Y A R D

2017 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 succeeded in farming the same land where the vineyard and winery now flourish. This 100% Syrah is named for the wife of Frederick Corkrum. After meeting following her vaudeville performance at a local theater, they married in August of 1929 and began their struggle to stay afloat during the Great Depression. Following Frederick's death in 1957, Nina Lee, who didn't want to depend on anyone for her livelihood, 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, Katherine, Frederick, and Nina Lee Corkrum, Shari Corkrum Derby and her husband Dean Derby continue to operate the wheat fields, vineyard and winery. The hard work, traditional values and deep family ties that have kept the ranch going for over 100 years are mirrored in Spring Valley Vineyard's signature offerings.

THE VINEYARD

Spring Valley Vineyard lies 12 miles northeast of Walla Walla, amid the picturesque wheat fields of southeastern Washington and the Blue Mountains in the distance. The initial block of Merlot was planted in 1993 on a southern hillside facing southwest. The vines follow the north-south slope of the hills in vertical rows, an orientation that when 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 during the winter in southeastern Washington.

VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage at Spring Valley Vineyard was nicely spread on a 6 weeks period. The winter was very cold, snowy and long. Yields were low, spring was wet and summer was hot, but harvest (September 7 to October 23) was cooler than usual. The sunlight was not as bright as usual and slightly filtered. Overall, 2017 saw very favorable growing conditions, producing wines with ripeness and elegance.

WINEMAKING

Spring Valley Vineyard fruit is hand-picked, hand-sorted and gently de-stemmed by gravity. During the 10-20 day fermentation, each tank is tasted daily until Spring Valley Vineyard Winemaker Serge Laville decides it is time to press using wooden cage basket presses. In keeping with Spring Valley tradition, originally instituted by founding winemaker Devin Corkrum Derby, hand punch-downs occur twice a day until the end of alcoholic fermentation. The wine is transferred by pump into barrels for secondary fermentation and gets racked several times for clarity. Finally, the different lots are blended to create our six distinctive labels.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

"The 2017 Nina Lee Syrah is primarily a blend of the original block of Syrah planted in 1998 and the 'Steep Hill' Vineyard block. The fruit was picked with 30% whole cluster with 2% being Viognier. The wine is very refined and delicate." ~ Serge Laville, Winemaker

TECHNICAL DATA

BLEND:

98% Syrah,
2% Viognier

TA: 0.58 g / 100 ml

pH: 3.88

Alcohol: 13.9%

AGING:

19 months in

100% French oak,
47% new, 53% neutral oak

APELLATION:

Walla Walla Valley

VINEYARD:

100% Spring Valley Vineyard
Estate Bottled