



#### WALLA WALLA VALLEY

## 2018 Mule Skinner Merlot

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

The names given to Spring Valley Vineyard wines are a tribute to the family members who have succeeded in farming. This 100% Merlot is named for Frederick Corkrum's job as the ranch's head Muleskinner before the advent of the Caterpillar tractor.

#### VINTAGE NOTES

- The 2018 vintage at Spring Valley was extremely compressed over a 4 week period. The winter was somewhat warm compared to 2017.
- Spring was very wet and summer was very hot and dry contributing to low yields. Also, we did not experience really high temperatures unlike that of June 2015.
- Occasional fires in surrounding areas filtered the sun light and delayed Harvest. First pick was on September 5 and last pick was on October 8.

#### VINEYARD NOTES

- Spring Valley Vineyard lies northeast of Walla Walla, amid the picturesque wheat fields with the Blue Mountains in the distance.
- The initial block of Merlot was planted in 1993 on a southern hillside facing southwest.
- Every grape is tended by hand, including crop thinning, leaf pulling, and harvesting.

#### WINEMAKING NOTES

- Spring Valley Vineyard fruit is hand-picked, hand-sorted and gently de-stemmed by gravity.
- During the fermentation, each tank is tasted daily until the Winemaker decides it is time to press using wooden cage basket presses.
- The wine is transferred into barrels for secondary fermentation and gets racked several times.

#### TASTING NOTES

This 100% Merlot comes entirely from the old blocks of Merlot planted in 1995. It has a rich texture, lots of complexity and focused on ripe fruit.

TA: 0.56 gm/100mL

PH: 3.79

ALCOHOL: 14.7%

BLEND:

Merlot.