



WALLA WALLA VALLEY

2023 30th Anniversary Merlot

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Our vineyard began with a 2-acre Merlot planting in 1993, established by Dean Derby and his brothers, Gaynor and Al. In 2023, Dean's granddaughter Kate, honored her family's planting by bottling this original block on its own, celebrating the 30th anniversary of this Merlot.

VINTAGE NOTES

- The 2023 season started with a cool spring, followed by ideal conditions during the summer with warm days and cool nights perfect for grape maturity and flavor development.
- Lower yields, uniform canopies, and even ripening contributed to exceptional quality.
- Harvest began earlier than usual with grapes showing excellent ripe flavor profiles, natural acidity, and nice tannins.

VINEYARD NOTES

- Spring Valley Vineyard lies twelve miles northeast of Walla Walla, amid the picturesque wheat fields of southeastern Washington.
- The vines follow the north-south slope of the hills in vertical rows that take advantage of air drainage and sunshine.
- Every grape cluster was 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 10-20 day fermentation, each tank is tasted daily until the winemaker decides it is time to press using stainless steel basket press.
- The wine is transferred into barrels for secondary fermentation and racked two times before bottling. Aged for 19 months in 100% French Oak.

TASTING NOTES

This Merlot opens with bright red fruit, lifted and lively. Strong tannins frame the wine's dusty, bright character, giving it both tension and clarity on the palate. Its ruby-toned vibrancy shines throughout. The finish leaves a lasting impression—an expression of intention and craftsmanship.
- Kate Derby, Winemaker

TA: 0.58g/100mL

PH: 3.86

ALCOHOL: 14.1%

BLEND: 100% Merlot

CASE PRODUCTION:

207