

## **2001 Merlot**

### *Columbia Valley*

#### **Vintage Notes:**

2001 Was about as close to a perfect vintage in the Walla Walla Valley as we could hope for. The year was absolutely beautiful with the exception of poor weather at bloom that caused us to set a smaller than normal crop, especially in our Merlot blocks. Nearly all summer long the weather was perfectly warm and sunny, without the usual heat spikes into triple digits that we normally experience in July and August. Harvest began early and ran about 5-7 days ahead of normal. The small crop contributed to great density and concentrated fruit.

#### **Winemaker notes:**

A Very dark wine with very brooding, sexy nose of violet florals, black fruits, dried herbs and sage, mint, meat and toasted oak. The wine is very concentrated with a soft, lush finish and great length. A Merlot lovers' Merlot.

#### **Vineyards in this Wine**

62% Walla Walla Valley Vineyards. Consisting of: Seven Hills, Pepper Bridge, Mill Creek Upland, and Leonetti Estate vineyard. 33% Columbia Valley Vineyards, consisting of: Bacchus Vineyard (Sagemoor Farms), and Conner-Lee Vineyards.

| <b><u>Aging Profile</u></b>   | <b><u>Blending Detail</u></b>   | <b><u>Production</u></b>                                  | <b><u>Winery Retail</u></b> |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Aged in new French, American, and Hungarian oak barrels for 13 months | Merlot 85.5%, Sangiovese 7.4%, Cabernet Franc 4.5%, Cabernet Sauvignon 2%, Syrah .6%. | Two thousand, four hundred and sixty-five cases produced. | \$55                        |