



## Merlot

### Spring Mountain District

### 2021

<b>Harvest Date:</b>	October 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Grape Source:</b>	Spring Mountain District
<b>Blend:</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Aging:</b>	22 months in French Oak Barrels 65% new and 35% a range of 2-4-year-old
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.7%
<b>Total Production:</b>	42 Barrels
<b>Release Date:</b>	September 2023
<b>Winemaker:</b>	David Tate

**Vintage Notes:** On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, our lovely vineyard and surrounding forest were sadly ablaze. Although we were able to save the house and winery, we were unable to use the fruit. After a year with no Merlot, we are very excited to be releasing our 2021. Although we did not get the rain we wanted early in the season, Spring was moderate allowing on time budbreak and flowering. We did get some heat early in the harvest season which tapered off allowing us to hang the Merlot a little longer picking on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. This wine has become a consumer favorite for its amazing concentration and power while still being true to the name Merlot.

**Winemaker Notes:** This Merlot comes from higher elevations on Spring Mountain. It is picked in the dark hours of the morning to ensure it arrives cool and undamaged. The Merlot spent 22 days on its skins to extract the soft tannins and flavor completely. Every year we look to see if a small percentage of any other varietal helps to fill in any gaps that the wine may have. This year the wine did not need any help and is one of the few years in our history where the wine is 100% Merlot.

**Tasting Notes:** The 2021 Spring Mountain Merlot has a beautiful dark purple core. There are beautiful pure aromatics from this 100% Merlot wine. Big black plum, dark roast coffee grounds, and black raspberry is matched with the caramel, clove, and vanilla from the oak. The wine has a beautiful viscosity, very rich and full. There is more cocoa nib, graphite and dark chocolate than fruit on the palate. The tannins are that perfect level of chalkiness to go with the richness of the wine. There is a beautiful black cherry cedar finish that goes on for a while. This wine will reward those who hold onto it for the next 9-10 years (2032-2033).