

Kestrel Vintners: 2004 Merlot



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| WINERY: | Owners John and Helen Walker set out to craft superior wines at reasonable prices that would rival the best Washington wineries. To achieve this goal they selected an outstanding staff and encouraged them to be creative. They have 160 acres of Estate vines in Yakima valley and access to several other prominent vineyards. Their winery opened in 1999. |
| DESCRIPTION: | An exceptionally beautiful Merlot. The color is inky crimson-purple. In the aroma and on the palate there are multiple layers of ripe black cherry, blackberry, black raspberry, dried blueberry, plum, fig and fresh red raspberry. The wine has a luscious quality, it is full bodied, complex, with a lingering finish. |
| GRAPES: | Ninety percent of the fruit came from the Kestrel View Estate Vineyard, located on the Rosa, six miles North of Prosser. Much of the Estate was planted in 1972, making the vines some of the oldest in the state. Ten percent of this Merlot is from our old vines. The remainder is comprised of grapes from vines planted in 1990. Ten percent of the fruit for this blend came from Destiny Ridge Vineyard, located about 20 miles south of Prosser on the banks of the Columbia River. |
| WINEMAKING: | The grapes were hand harvested and carefully sorted, removing any defective fruit, leaves or stems. It was destemmed and crushed into fermenters, where it was punched down or pumped over twice daily to extract the maximum color and flavor. After draining and pressing, the wine was aged in a mixture of French and Hungarian oak barrels, 35% new, for 22 months prior to bottling. |
| BLEND: | 91.5% Merlot, 8.5% Cabernet Sauvignon |
| ANALYSIS: | Alcohol.: 13.9%, pH: 3.46, T.A.: 0.59%, R.S.: 0.1% |
| RELEASE: | March 2007 |
| PRODUCTION: | 1,697 cases |

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