



2000 *50% Merlot & 50% Cabernet Franc*
WOODWARD CANYON VINEYARD

Caleb Foster and Nina Buty Foster are pleased to introduce our Woodward Canyon Vineyard blended red wine. Walla Walla native Rick Small, a pioneer of Walla Walla viticulture and winemaking, planted Woodward Canyon Vineyard. The merlot and cabernet franc were planted in 1997, alongside the original 1976 plantings. This wine is dedicated to Rick Small, managers Rene Tjerina and Silvano Gonzales, and the entire vineyard crew.

The vines are planted at the high density of 1600 plants per acre. Each vine carried no more than ten clusters. Hand harvested on October 7, 2000, the concentrated fruit reached full maturity. The hectoliter yield at harvest was 6HL per acre, equaling less than one bottle per plant. The cabernet franc measured 24.5° brix, 3.61 pH, and 5.5 g/L acid, and the merlot measured 24.8° brix, 3.91 pH, and 5.5 g/L acid as fresh fruit.

Open vessel fermented, hand punched down and aerated during ferment, the wines were basket pressed, and finished sugar and malolactic ferment in barrels. Aged in traditional French chateau barrels, 70% new Demptos cooper-select, the wines were blended in the spring and bottled in their second winter, unfinned and unfiltered.

At bottling on January 20, 2002, the alcohol was 13.8%, the pH 3.91 and the free sulfur less than 30 ppm. Accessible and generous now, the intense fruit and balanced alcohol, oak and tannin, will allow this wine to age ten years or more.

One hundred nineteen cases were bottled. The wine was released on May 4, 2002.