The 2014 Growing season started perfectly, with an extended dry blooming period and ideal temperatures. The year was drier than normal and much warmer than normal from April through the first few weeks of October. These perfect growing conditions led to what Tedd Wildman, manager of Stone Tree Vineyard, called shock and awe. “First the winemaker was in shock because the quantity was between 10 and 20 percent higher than cluster counts predicted, then everyone was in awe because the quality was very, very good.”

Overall, this trend repeated itself through all our vineyards. The two exceptions were Les Collines and Bergevin Springs. The Cabernet Sauvignon came in on our tonnage target and the quality is spectacular. The Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon came in on target at Bergevin Springs and the vineyard is giving hints to an earthy character that is quite unique. The Merlot from Bergevin Springs came in above expected quantity but shows the dark fruit and that earthy character found elsewhere in the vineyard. The only down side to this vintage was that the workload was as intense and concentrated as the wines. Our facility was bulging at the seams.

**Appellation/Vineyards:**

68% Francisca’s Vineyard—Walla Walla
34% Stone Tree Vineyard—Wahluke Slope

**Blend:** 100% Syrah

**Aging:** 14 months 12% New, 69% FR, 27% Am & 4% Hungarian

**Bottle Date & Cases Produced:**

June 30, 2016 1210 Cases Alc. 14.5%

**Winemaking notes:**

Whole Berry Fermentation at cooler temperatures creates deep dark fruit flavors. We go slow with our fermentations creating smooth textures and darkening the color. The new oak adds bold coffee and toast while the neutral barrels add weight and substance.