Merry Cellars
Pullman, Washington
Alexis Torp
Summer 2017

Introduction

- Merry Cellars was launched in 2004 with an inaugural vintage of 400 cases
- In the past 13 years Patrick Merry (the owner and winemaker) has grown the business to produce 5,000 cases annually with goals to grow larger in the coming years
- Merry Cellars began as a hobby in a basement as Patrick was working on completing his PhD in Computer Science at WSU
- As his interest in winemaking grew, and support from family and friends steadily increased, Patrick decided to stop pursuing his doctorate and become a winemaker full-time
- Patrick also works closely with the Viticulture and Enology club and program at WSU to provide internship and working opportunities to students who want hands-on experience in the wine industry

Internship Overview

- In my internship this summer I was working primarily in the tasting room learning point of sale, customer interaction, customer service, atmospheric comfort and creation, and most importantly, wine!
- I was able to participate in the barrel tasting process for the creation of next years Silhouette red blend, and help with the transfer of the wine from barrel to tank
- The picture above is from a promotion they were doing at the winery called "Magnum Monday's" where any refill on canteens or magnums was 10% off on Mondays.
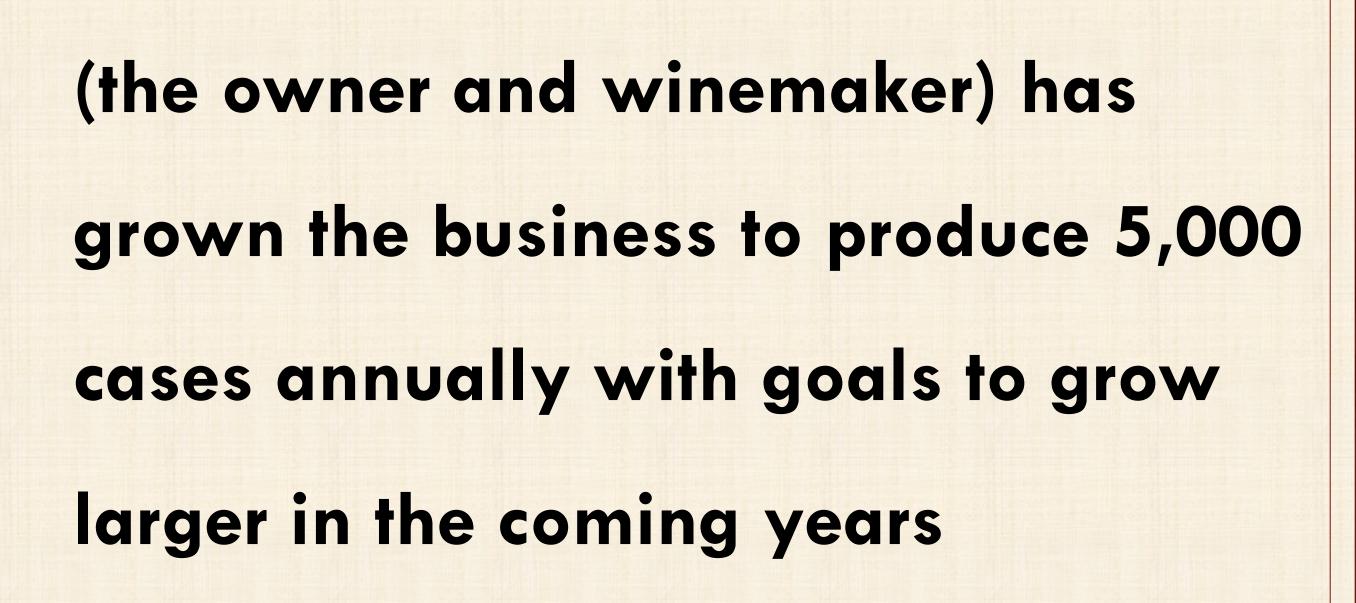
Summary of Experience

- While I knew the experience of interning at Merry Cellars this summer was going to be a good one, I didn't know what to expect from it.
- One part of me was worried that I was going to come out of the summer disliking what I had done and realizing only as I head into my senior year that I completely dislike working in the wine industry!
- The other part of me thought that my doubts were absurd, and was totally assured that the experience would be an affirmation that I was indeed on the right path.
- Thankfully, my experience turned out to be the latter! I loved every part of my internship and finished it wanting more, and I definitely took advantage of the opportunity to tell Patrick as much when I left for the final time!