

ELK COVE

VINEYARDS

2012 Clay Court



VINTAGE 2012 will go down as one of the finest in Oregon history in terms of quality of the raw materials. Mother Nature really smiled on us with not only a rain-free harvest season but perhaps more importantly with tiny berries and clusters. The small fruit allowed us to effortlessly and gently extract concentration and ripe tannins from the perfectly formed grapes.

According to owner/winemaker Adam Campbell "The wines from 2012 remind me and my folks of classic vintages like 1998 and 1994. Small clusters and berries give us an amazing skin-to-juice ratio, allowing us to be incredibly gentle through fermentation and still come up with powerful concentration and ripeness of fruit."

Early reviews of the 2012 vintage use descriptors like "Stunning", "Amazing" & "Epic" making Oregon winemakers giddy that 2012 could go down as the best vintage in our 50 year winemaking history.

VINEYARD: Clay Court sits atop a picturesque hillside in the Parrett Mountain zone of the Chehalem Mountains AVA. This 15 acre all-Pinot-Noir vineyard was planted in 2001 with the classic Pommard and modern Dijon 115 and 777 clones of Pinot Noir. Clay Court was purchased by Elk Cove in 2009 and is the home of founders Joe and Pat Campbell – and their beloved tennis court! With gentle east-facing slopes, dark red Jory clay soils, and a proven track-record for producing high-quality Pinot Noirs, Clay Court Vineyard was immediately a great addition to Elk Cove's estate vineyards.

WINEMAKING: All of Elk Cove's delicate Pinot Noir fruit undergoes the same gentle handling through our gravity flow system. This allows us to achieve the elegance, texture and luscious quality that are the hallmarks of exquisite Pinot Noir.

Clay Court Pinot Noir fruit is fermented in small, temperature controlled steel tanks, hand punched down twice daily then aged for ten months in 40% new French oak. Our winemaking team then carefully blends the barrels most representative of the spicy flavors and concentrated red cherry fruit that characterizes this vineyard.

TASTING NOTES: *Red-velvet in color with spicy plum and ripe red cherries on the nose. Entices with a smooth texture showing very concentrated red fruits of currents, fresh cranberry sauce, and raspberries falling ripe off the vine. Finishes silky and complete.*

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 11 years
Yield: 1.75 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 23.5 brix
Vatting: Fermentation in small open top steel fermentors.
10 months in French oak.
pH: 3.37
TA: 6.0
Alc: 13.5% v/v
Bottled Aug 2013
Cases Produced: 518

REVIEWS:

92 Points - *Wine Spectator - August, 2014*

"Vibrant and expressive, with a spurt of currant and plum fruit leading a parade of tangy citrus, dusky spice and chai tea..." -H.S.

91 Points - *Wine Enthusiast Magazine - June, 2014*

90 Points - *Wine & Spirits Magazine - August, 2014*

"Bright with a high-toned cherry aroma, this deepens to plum and spice in the middle."

92 Points - *Steven Tanzer's Int'l Wine Cellar - July/August 2014*

"Sexy, expressive aromas of dark berry liqueur, cherry pit, floral pastilles and woodsmoke, with a spicy topnote adding vibrancy" - J.R.