

2007 Pinot Blanc



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 5-15 years
Yield: 3 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 21 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.17
Bottled: February 2008
Cases Produced: 1,480

The Willamette Valley has a suitable climate for this delicate grape variety – enough sunlight and warmth for ripening and cooler night temperatures to retain varietal character. To preserve the freshness, it is whole-cluster pressed, and then fermented at very cool temperatures in small stainless steel tanks, which accentuates aromatics and enhances the richness and viscosity. The fruit is hand-harvested from select hillside vineyards in the northern Willamette Valley.

Vintage 2007 is one that will certainly be discussed. Some say it's a grower's year, where meticulous thinning, canopy management and spray routines helped the fruit left hanging on the vine. Others maintain this is a winemaker's year, where the most experienced and agile artists will be able to take the fruit given by Mother Nature and craft some outstanding wines. All agree that it brought some challenges, yet with the rain in the range of 2005 and much less than the last really rainy harvest of 1997, most in the valley know how to adapt; taking advantage of this year's attributes such as lower sugars (lower alcohols) and higher acids. These wines will be elegant, refreshing, racy. This vintage will have stellar wines, just perhaps with more variability.

Now one of the core varietals for Elk Cove Vineyards, this is true to our style of white wines; clean, crisp and focused on the fruit. While great ripeness is apparent in this wine, lean and racy also describes the 2007 Pinot Blanc. This fruit is blended of, not only, both Elk Cove Vineyards' Estate and Mount Richmond vineyards but also two other sites in the Willamette Valley, Meredith Mitchell in McMinnville and Tukwilla near Dundee. We hope you enjoy this wine selection from Elk Cove Vineyards, as we are proud to include it in our "family" of wines!

Reviews

89 Pts. ~ *Wine Enthusiast* ~ November 15, 2008