

2006 Pinot Noir La Bohème



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 21 years
Yield: 1.8 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 26.2 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.64
Bottled: September 2007
6 Bottle Cases
Produced: 980

The La Bohème Vineyard, planted in 1985, is now a 17-acre high-density site comprised of Pinot Noir grapes selected from the original Estate Pommard planting. The individual vines were isolated and chosen for their small clusters and berries with intense flavors, both characteristics of the world's finest Pinot Noirs. This picturesque vineyard rises to 800', overlooking the winery and original Estate vineyards, making it one of the highest elevations sites in the Willamette Valley. This steep hillside vineyard undergoes extensive pruning and cluster thinning to limit yields and maximize ripening in order to concentrate the fruit. La Bohème has been served twice at the White House, on the first occasion with herb-crusted pheasant breast at a state dinner for Helmut Kohl and the second dinner party with loin of lamb. Traditionally this is a seductive wine that would also compliment grilled salmon, veal or beef.

Vintage 2006 certainly has everyone offering up grand descriptions! "Everything ripened beautifully." "This is a rarity." "A warm, fully ripe vintage." Fruit set was ideal with a mild Spring. Months that followed were warm and dry, with short-lived heat spikes and a few intermittent cooling rains in the fall, advancing fruit ripeness. Feelings abound in the valley that the 2006 vintage seems to be a combination of the 1999's depth and the ripeness of 2003 (the only vintage warmer than 2006), but with better flavors and natural balance. The Pinot Noirs specifically seem to be very true to form with velvety tannins and a sexiness evocative of Pinot's feminine side. Put this with softer, darker blue fruits that are more generous and it's the makings of exceptional wines! In general, this vintage had us searching for negatives, finding only the six days of over 86 degrees in early harvest to fret over. But the results seem to be close to perfect!

Reviews

93 Pts. ~ Wine Spectator ~ May 2008

"Velvety in texture and generous with its blue plum and black currant flavors, subtly weaving in notes of red meat and balsamic...the wine seems to pose on the finish, showing off its gifts."

92 Pts. ~ Wine & Spirits ~ June, 2008

"Ample, round and lavish in its oak...it's packed with flavors of mocha, sassafras, and black cherry...serve with pasta or wild mushrooms."

91 Pts. Cellar Selection ~ Wine Enthusiast ~ July, 2008

"La Bohème, now almost 25 years old, has been Elk Cove's tête de cuvée for most of its life... as with all of Adam Campbell's wines, it is finely sculpted, showcasing tart and tangy cranberry pomegranate, and rhubarb flavors with a finish that lands on a foundation of rock."

94 Pts. ~ Pinot Report ~ Feb. 15, 2008

"...deep, rich cherry and earthy flavors, silky texture, sweet oak, some tannin;...This Pinot has great depth and complexity, as well as a wonderful silkiness."

5 Star! ~ Restaurant Wine ~ Spring, 2008

"Superb Pinot – best ever from Elk Cove. Fragrant and fine in aroma (plum, cherry, rose petal, vanilla), this is a full bodied, velvety, well balanced wine with a very long persistent finish...Exceptional!"

Outstanding! ~ Wine Press Northwest ~ Spring 2008

"From the opening whiff, this reveals bright aromas of raspberries, Bing cherries, blackberries and allspice. It's a lively wine on the palate, thanks to flavors of charming cherries and ripe raspberries. From the entry to the rich midpalate through the lengthy finish, this wine provides great balance and true elegance."