

2009 Pinot Noir Five Mountain



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 31 years
Yield: 2.5 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 25-26 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.52
Bottled: August 2010
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 530

Elk Cove Vineyards purchased Five Mountain Vineyard in 2005 after leasing the site for several years. Previously it was exclusively used in our Willamette Valley blend, but after taking full control of the vineyard we have found certain lots worthy of Single Vineyard status. This historic vineyard was planted in 1978 by the Ponzi family, the original 4.2 acres of old vines are comprised of Pommard clone and the entire vineyard is set on a steep southeast slope in the Chehalem Mountains AVA, overlooking “five mountains” in the Cascade Range most widely seen from the Willamette Valley. This vineyard was an important element to the early Ponzi Reserve Pinots and has also been a Single Vineyard selection from a number of premier Oregon wineries over the years. This site is now sustainably farmed by Elk Cove Vineyards and comprises a total of 30 acres including the original old vine Pinot Noir, Dijon Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Muscat.

2009 was a vintage of abundance. Ideal springtime weather led to a hot summer, which gave us a beautiful, uniform and potentially prolific crop. Warm temperatures at harvest time lulled some growers into picking late, at potentially high alcohols. The right decision, top winemakers agree, was to get the grapes in while they still had fresh flavors. As always, we showed our commitment to quality by thinning and green harvesting to achieve earlier ripening and better concentration of flavors. As winemaker, Adam Campbell, states “harvest went off without a hitch and we picked the grapes at a deliberate but frankly leisurely pace which allowed focusing on retained acidity.” So, vintage 2009 may be remembered as one of those rare combinations of excellent quality and quantity, with the wines showing flash

Reviews

92 Pts. ~ *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar* ~ July/August 2011

“Vivid red. Sexy, expressive bouquet of raspberry and cherry-cola, potpourri and minerals, plus a touch of smokiness. Silky and precise on the palate, with very good depth but no excess fat to its red fruit flavors. Shows very good clarity on the finish, which lingers with suave floral and spice notes. This is drinkable now but has the depth and balance to age.”
– J. R.