

2009 Pinot Noir Windhill



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 35 years
Yield: 2.4tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 25.5-26 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.65
Bottled: August 2010
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 208

Windhill Vineyard, twenty miles west of Portland sitting in the foothills of the Coast Range, is perennially one of Oregon's finest Pinot Noir vineyards. Planted in 1974, the vineyard became part of Elk Cove's portfolio in 1996 when Elk Cove purchased it. We have continued to produce limited production Single Vineyard designated wines from Windhill Vineyard since 1979! Temperate winds that blow across the vineyard's gentle south-facing slopes and a lower elevation (500 feet) situation than the estate vineyards at Elk Cove, allows for earlier ripening. The combination of super low yields, volcanic soils (Laurelwood) and great plant material (old vines – own rooted Pommard clone) are all essential elements for the finest Pinot Noir from this site in Western Oregon. Furthering our belief in sustainability, Windhill has been farmed completely with organic farming practices since 1999.

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.

