

2010 Pinot Noir Five Mountain



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 32 years
Yield: 1.55 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 23.5 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.59
Bottled: August 2011
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 339

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.

Vintage 2010 brings to mind some catchy phrases. *The year of the birds – Hitchcock style, let ‘em hang* and our favorite, and slogan for the vintage – “Hang ‘10”! Yes, harvest was later than normal. An exceptional cold, wet spring followed by what many seasoned producers recall as one of the shortest summers. However, 2010 was not the worst of years. The ‘attack of our feathered friends,’ whose almost unprecedented assault on valley fruit, also indicated nature’s signal that the fruit was ripe and grapes good indeed. Winemaker, Adam Campbell, comments in response to vintage nervousness, “you know, we have been doing this for almost 40 years, and it’s not the first time we’ve had slow ripening. We’re optimistic about it and we know exactly what to do.” Even science agrees. Climatologists show similarities to the great 2008 vintage; reporting lower yields, small berries and full flavor development at lower brix levels – all signs pointing to high quality wines with lower alcohols.

Reviews

92 Pts. ~ *Wine Spectator* ~ January 2013

“Light and lively, with expressive raspberry, clotted cream and mocha flavors that mingle harmoniously as the finish glides on. The tannins are polished, and the flavors emerge easily. Drink now through 2018.”
— H.S.

91 Pts. ~ *Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar* ~ July/August 2012

“Bright aromas of black raspberry and cherry accented by saffras and black tea. Juicy and focused, offering vibrant red fruit flavors that take a darker turn with air. Finishes bright and very long, with persistent spice and rose pastille qualities.” — J.R.