

2010 Pinot Noir La Bohème



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 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. ~ Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar ~ July/August 2012

"Sexy, spice-accented aromas of raspberry, cherry and lavender, with mocha and cola notes. Gently sweet black raspberry and floral pastille flavors lifted by a touch of bitter orange peel. Fine-grained tannins add grip to the long, penetrating finish." — J.R.

Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 25 years
Yield: 1.55 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 23.5 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.67
Bottled: August 2011
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 353