



ELK COVE

VINEYARDS

2016 Mount Richmond

VINTAGE 2016 was a year of unusual weather that led to beautiful fruit at lower than average yields. In spring, an early heat spike meant a very condensed time frame for bloom. This gave us smaller than average berries and clusters and set us on the path for our third early harvest in a row. Thankfully, summer weather was cooler than average, which slowed down ripening and allowed flavor development to catch up to sugar accumulation. Due to our small initial crop estimates, we held off thinning until the last minute to delay ripening and add “hang-time”, an important factor in the development of complex flavors.

We were a little stunned when our first fruit hit the crush-pad in the last days of August, setting a record for our earliest harvest in 40 years. September and October brought relief from the heat with mild evenings and cool nights that allowed for slow, even ripening. We picked fruit that was absolutely pristine and perfectly ripe, at a gradual pace that allowed us to give our full attention to each block and work shorter hours than in a typical harvest season.

We are optimistic that 2016 will be an outstanding vintage, reminiscent of 2012 and 2014, with wines that show great balance and concentration.

VINEYARD: Mount Richmond Vineyard sits on Willakenzie soils in the heart of the Yamhill Carlton AVA. The site was purchased in 1996 as a partnership between winemaker Adam Campbell, his wife Carrie, and Elk Cove founders Pat and Joe Campbell.

The motivation for planting Mount Richmond was to emulate the wine quality from sites such as our esteemed Roosevelt vineyard. The vineyard now holds the honor as the largest vineyard holding of Elk Cove, totaling 150 planted acres.

Mount Richmond sits at 300-500 feet elevation, lower than the vineyards planted at the winery, which allows for earlier ripening. Planted in a high-density format (2100 vines/acre), similar to Roosevelt, Mount Richmond sits in rolling hills just outside the town of Yamhill just East of the Coast Range Mountains. In addition to the old vine pommard selection, planted from select cuttings off of Roosevelt Vineyard, the blend now also includes equal parts of Dijon clones 115 and 777.

WINEMAKING: Fruit from Mount Richmond is fermented in small, temperature controlled steel tanks, hand punched down twice daily, and barreled in 50% new french oak barrels. After 10 months of aging in barrels, only the barrels that are most representative of the Mount Richmond profile are carefully blended to create a big, luscious Oregon Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES: Candied aromas of kirsch and fresh raspberry jam counter-balanced by dark notes of toffee and fresh tobacco. Fresh blackberry and red plum on the palate play against a ferrous background of orange peel and licorice notes that add interest to the clarity on the finish.

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 5-21 years
Harvest Sugars: 23.5 brix
Vatting: Fermentation in small open top steel fermentors.
10 months in French oak.
pH: 3.6
TA: 5.6
Alc: 13.5 v/v
Bottled August 2017
Cases Produced: 1012

REVIEWS:

92+ Points - *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate* (August, 2018)

“...a lovely open nose of black cherry preserves, blueberry compote and boysenberry with notions of floral perfume, tilled soil and dried leaves. Light to medium-bodied, it fills the mouth with warm black fruits and layers of baking spice and earth, with a good frame of fine-grained tannins and great freshness, finishing very long and spicy...”
- E.B.

92 Points - *Wine Spectator* (October, 2018)

93 Points - *Wine Enthusiast* (December, 2018)

94 Points - *James Suckling* (November, 2018)

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