

2008 Pinot Noir Five Mountain



Five Mountain Vineyard was purchased by Elk Cove Vineyards in 2005 after leasing the site for several years. Previously only a component of our Willamette Valley blend, 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 sustainably farmed by Elk Cove Vineyards and now comprises a total of 30 acres including the original old vine Pinot Noir, Dijon Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Muscat. We are excited to include this Vineyard in our family of Single Vineyard wines!

There is a quiet kind of excitement in the Willamette Valley after harvest 2008. Phrases and clichés keep rolling on such as classic cool climate, vintage conditions that are only dreamt of, potential to show the best of what Oregon has to offer. Add to this, repeated references to perhaps one of Oregon’s best vintages, 1999 and understandably many in the valley are smiling. Oregon’s 2008 growing season started late, with bud break on average ten days to two weeks behind schedule and followed with a relatively cool growing season. Thoughts of the recent wet and cool harvest of 2007 had many aggressively thin vineyards to concentrate fruit and speed up ripening and ward off disease pressure. Yet as in 1999, a beautiful Oregon autumn saved the day! Fall was spectacular with sunny days and cold nights, producing the tiny berries and small clusters not seen since the 1994 and 1998 vintages, laying the foundation to produce extraordinary wines.

Reviews

92 Pts. ~ Tanzer International Wine Cellar ~ July/August 2010

“Deep red with a bright rim. Sexy black raspberry and floral aromas are complemented by notes of spicecake and incense, plus a hint of musky herbs. Supple, palate-coating red and dark berry flavors show excellent depth without any excess fat. The juicy dark berry note repeats on the finish, which also offers hints of cola and smoky Indian spices. There’s lots going on already but I’d stash this wine away for another few years.”
— J.R.

90 Pts. ~ Wine Spectator ~ July 31, 2010

“Tight, focused and minerally, with a stony component to the dark berry and spice flavors, all floating over a light, transparent structure... Best from 2012 through 2018.” – H.S.

Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 30 years
Yield: 2.2 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 24 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.78
Bottled: August 2009
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 517