

ELK COVE VINEYARDS

2014 Pinot Noir Willamette Valley



VINTAGE 2014 in Oregon may be remembered as the vintage of a lifetime, one of those rare vintages, reminiscent of 1988 and 2002, when you have high quality and high quantity simultaneously. The tone for the season was set at bud break, which averaged two weeks early, a lead that held on through harvest. Growing conditions were mostly dry and warmer than normal resulting in a large number of small clusters that ripened evenly, giving us wines that are fruit focused, quite concentrated and amazingly fresh.

This year's warmer than average days and moderately cool nights created the ideal conditions that led to a faster rate of ripening due to less stress on the vines. Winemaker Adam Campbell notes "the amazing summer weather led to the lowest disease pressure I have ever seen, creating a harvest that was the stuff dreams are made of - little rain with gorgeous fruit coming in at an easy tempo for a relaxed and delightful crush".

As fruit came in with incredible evenness and extraordinary concentration, 2014 will likely be a show stopping vintage. We remain true to our goals as wine growers - looking to capture the beautiful, complex flavors that are the signature of Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and other cool-climate varieties.

VINEYARD: Our Willamette Valley Pinot Noir is made with fruit from all five of our vineyard sites: Estate, Mount Richmond, Five Mountain, Clay Court and Windhill. We also purchase a small amount of select fruit from other producers who are longtime friends of Elk Cove. These sites are comprised of both Pomard and Dijon plant material, with multiple clones represented.

Because we draw from vineyards representing all three of the major Willamette Valley soil types, we are able to pick and choose for different flavor components to make the best possible blend each year for our Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. Some people call this making wine "spice rack" style, we usually just call it delicious. Our goal is the perfect version of what we believe a Willamette Valley Pinot should be: a wine with freshness of fruit, well-integrated alcohol, and great concentration of flavor.

WINEMAKING: To make our Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, fruit from each vineyard block is fermented separately in small, temperature controlled steel tanks, hand punched down twice daily, and barreled in 20% new french oak barrels. After 10 months of aging in 20% new oak, the wine we choose for the Willamette Valley Pinot is carefully blended to produce the most approachable, well-balanced Pinot Noir we make.

TASTING NOTES: Full aromas of dark spicy raspberry and Bing cherry fruit are primary with wafts of cedar, leather and warm baking spice that round out the nose. Seamless on the palate with brambly flavors of fresh picked blackberries alongside cedar and chocolate components. A slight savory note of cured olives adds complexity to this elegant wine.

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 5-40 years
Harvest Sugars: 23.2 brix
Vatting: Fermentation in small open top
steel fermentors.
10 months in French oak
pH: 3.53
TA: 6.00
Alc: 13.5% v/v
Bottled August 2015
Cases Produced: 22,862

REVIEWS:

92 Points - James Suckling (jamesuckling.com Nov 4, 2016)

"A wine with plenty of dried-strawberry and berry aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, firm and velvety tannins - yet this is always refined and polished. A beauty."

Gold Medal - Cascadia Wine Competition (March, 2016)

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