

ELK COVE

VINEYARDS

2015 Five Mountain



VINTAGE 2015 brought ideal conditions, leading to generous yields and exceptionally concentrated fruit. An early spring and clear weather led to a solid bloom that was three weeks early. Thinning is such an important tool for us to influence the course of ripening, and due to large initial cropsets, one we fully utilized in 2015. We thinned in early summer at our higher elevation sites, but waited until veraison to thin our lower elevation sites to slow down ripening and add “hang-time,” an important factor in the development of complex flavors in Pinot Noir.

Harvest 2015 was the earliest on record for the Northern Willamette Valley and we were a little stunned when our first fruit hit the crushpad on September 8th. Autumn brought relief from the heat with mild evenings and cool rainless nights that allowed for slow, even ripening. We harvested fruit that was absolutely pristine and perfectly ripe, at a gradual pace that allowed us to give our full attention to each block.

We are hopeful that 2015 is equally as good as the spectacular 2012 and 2014 vintages, and early signs indicate just that, with the wines showing moderate alcohols, balanced acids and great concentration.

VINEYARD: 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. The site has a view of five volcanoes in the Cascade Range most widely seen from the Willamette Valley. This vineyard was an important element in the early Ponzi Reserve Pinots and has also been a Single Vineyard selection from a number of premier Oregon wineries over the years.

Five Mountain is now sustainably farmed by Elk Cove Vineyards and comprises a total of 30 acres including the original old vine Pommard Pinot Noir, younger Dijon Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Muscat, Gewurztraminer and Riesling.

WINEMAKING: Fruit from Five Mountain is fermented in small, temperature controlled steel tanks, hand punched down twice daily, and barreled in 23% new French oak barrels. After 10 months of aging, only the barrels that are most representative of the Five Mountain profile are carefully blended to create a big, luscious Oregon Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES: Blue flowers, clove, strawberry compote and a touch of citrus make up a vivid and rich nose. The palate unfolds with deep tones of black currant, cola and leather, while contrasting flavors of strawberries and cream, fresh thyme and pepper keep this wine complex and exciting.

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 18-37 years

Harvest Sugars: 24.5 brix

Vatting: Fermentation in small open top steel fermentors. 10 months in 23% new

French oak.

pH: 3.57

TA: 5.7

Alc: 14% v/v

Bottled July 2016

Cases Produced: 744.5

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REVIEWS:

91 Points - *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (August, 2017)*

“...delicately scented of cranberries and raspberry leaves with hints of black pepper, rose hips and fallen leaves. The Medium-bodied palate offers a solid frame of firm tannins and just enough freshness to lift the elegant, earthy flavors...” - L.P.B.

92 Points - *Purely Domestic Wine Report (November, 2017)*

92 Points - *Vinous (January, 2018)*