

# ELK COVE VINEYARDS

## 2019 La Bohème Brut Rosé



**VINTAGE 2019** required experience and courage. After 45 years, we often say there isn't a harvest we haven't seen, but 2019 was an odd one. After a warm May and a healthy, early fruit-set, the summer ended cool with no threat of the sunburn or hazy, smoky skies seen in recent years. We expected to pick in early September, but weeks of unseasonably cool weather took us by surprise. Rather rushing to pick too early, we waited patiently for concentrations and sugar levels to rise, confident that our vineyard practices would protect the fruit.

According to Winemaker/Owner Adam Campbell "You pick your moments. If you're 100% estate grown and you have impeccable timing - you can grow fantastic fruit in any year. It took months of preparation in the vineyard, and some very long days during crush, but we had a great crew in 2019 and managed to get sugar levels right where we want them."

Our goal is a minimum 100 days from bloom to harvest; 2019 saw hang times as long as 125 days in some blocks. Expect wines with a big ripe core of concentrated fruit and a bright, fresh profile.

**VINEYARD:** Pat and Joe Campbell named La Bohème vineyard after the family who sold them the property in 1974 - and their favorite Puccini opera. This picturesque vineyard overlooks the winery and the coast range mountains and rises to 800 feet, making it one of the highest elevation vineyard sites in the Willamette Valley. Fruit for this Brut Rosé was sourced from the lower blocks of La Bohème and harvested early at a lower ripeness. The lower initial sugar level of 21 brix helped us keep the final alcohol level at our desired 12-13%.

**WINEMAKING:** Our 100% Pinot Noir sparkling wine is a "méthode traditionnelle" Brut Rosé and was cool-fermented in stainless steel tanks to retain freshness of character using a traditional Champagne yeast.

This pink bubbly was initially bottled on site at Elk Cove. After 3 years in tirage (on the lees in bottle) the wine was riddled in an automated "gyropalette" then disgorged. We used a small amount of our ultra-sweet Ultima wine for the final dosage to adjust sweetness to a classic brut level.

**TASTING NOTES:** Peach-pink in color with fine, assertive bubbles, this sparkling wine leads with fresh aromatics of strawberry shortcake, muddled mint and pink lady apples, well-matched by flavors of underripe strawberry and fresh-cut peach that lead into a delicate finish of citrus peel and candied ginger.

### VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Varietal: Pinot Noir  
Vine Age: 32 years  
Harvest Sugars: 20 brix  
pH: 3.06  
TA: 7.2  
Alc: 12.5% v/v

### REVIEWS:

**93 Points** - *Owen Bargreen (Dec. 2023)*

"The outstanding 2019 'La Bohème Brut Rose' is entirely composed of Pinot Noir grapes from the La Bohème estate vineyard. This spent three years en tirage, as the wine opens with a lovely bouquet of red florals alongside cranberry and red cherry candy. Soft and refined, with salty accents, this is drinking beautifully and shows beautiful poise and weight from this slightly cooler vintage. Drink 2023-2031" - *Owen Bargreen*