

ELK COVE

VINEYARDS

2021 Estate Riesling



VINTAGE 2021 was an outstanding year at Elk Cove. Cool weather during bloom and moderate temperatures during most of the growing season brought forth an ample harvest of intensely concentrated fruit.

The timing of weather events was key to our success in 2021. Rainfall during bloom raised expectations for a small, high-quality crop. Then a once-in-a-millennium heat dome event brought worrying temperatures to the Pacific Northwest. This was thankfully during the most resilient stage of the growing season and our old vines survived without sign of serious stress or sunburn. Growth resumed normally once temperatures cooled with average heat from July through September bringing even ripening to the plentiful small, loose clusters. Our vines made it through the rain and the heat in fine condition with lots of variable sized berries, known as hens and chicks.

Harvest 2021 was not only of high quality but also surprisingly bountiful. Low levels of dehydration combined with the numerous small clusters and several acres of young vines coming into maturity meant a record tonnage for Elk Cove. For red Pinot Noirs, expect intense color and flavors bursting out of the glass, while white wines and rosés are fruit-forward with great acidity and balance.

VINEYARD: Our Riesling Estate is made from hand-picked fruit from three of our estate vineyards: our Winery Estate, Five Mountain and Windhill. Our Riesling vines are some of the oldest in Oregon, with our Estate and Windhill vines dating from 1975. These older vines give us fruit with a delightful complexity not often seen in domestic Rieslings.

WINEMAKING: We have the perfect climate for this delicate cool weather white wine – there’s enough sunlight and warmth for ripening, but our cool evenings help us retain the delicate varietal character. We whole-cluster press our Riesling grapes, then ferment the juice at very cool temperatures in small stainless steel tanks, producing an aromatic, crisp Riesling with a beautiful acid profile.

TASTING NOTES: Fresh and fragrant with dried apricot, lime and petrol on the nose, this juicy wine opens with flavors of zesty tangerine and white peach that lead into a finish of pear skin and ginger.

REVIEWS:

2021 Estate Riesling - 91 Points - *Wine Enthusiast* (December, 2023)

2021 Estate Riesling - 90 Points - *Wine & Spirits Magazine* (April, 2023)

2021 Estate Riesling - 92 Points - *Decanter* (August, 2023)

“A wonderful off-dry Oregon Riesling that shows elegance, depth and just the slightest touch of viscosity. The aromatics of cardamom, spiced pear and honeysuckle are tinged with wet stone aromas and just a kiss of petrol. The palate shows a real depth of spiced pear fruits, lychee, toasted almond cream and great acidity carry this wine to the finish.”

– Clive Pursehouse, *Decanter*

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 14 & 46 years

Harvest Sugars: 22 brix

Vatting: Whole-cluster pressed and cold fermented in small stainless steel tanks.

pH: 2.85

TA: 7.3

IRF scale: Dry

Alc: 13% v/v