

ELK COVE

VINEYARDS

2024 Estate Riesling



VINTAGE 2024 in the Willamette Valley was a winemaker's dream: well-paced with idyllic conditions for cool climate vineyards.

The growing season started and ended cool and mild, with short heat-spikes in mid-summer. Winter and spring were wetter than average, giving the vines a head start underground. Budbreak in mid-April was followed by steady growth into June, when rains during bloom naturally lowered yields for us, lessening the need for thinning fruit. July and August were punctuated by several heat-spikes. Thankfully, the hottest temperatures occurred during the green phase of fruit maturation, while clusters are sunburn resistant. We were thankful for the efforts of our local fire department who snuffed out a couple of local fires near Hagg Lake in Gaston. Toward the end of the growing season, a late August drizzle left our vines clean and refreshed, ripening a moderate quantity of very beautiful fruit. We looked forward to harvest with keen anticipation.

The 2024 harvest had a slower pace than typical. With the exception of some early sparkling wine picks, all fruit came in over the course of 40 days. We brought in our first Pinot the second week of September and harvest continued at a steady beat, allowing us to give each vineyard block and fermentation our optimal attention. After a very mild October with plenty of sunshine and wonderful diurnal swings in temperature, the first cold snap of November brought so much cold air, the cellar required extra heating during our white wine fermentations. The timing of harvest was close to our historic average, but within a longer window contributing to great hang-time.

Expect concentrated, fruit-forward wines with great complexity. We are hopeful that the 2024 will come to be considered a classic Willamette Valley vintage.

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.

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 18 & 50 years

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

IRF scale: Dry

pH: 2.93

TA: 8

Alc: 13.5

Cases Produced: 1800

Bottled: March 2025

PAST REVIEWS:

2022 Riesling - 90 Points - Robert Parker Wine Advocate (July 2024)

"The 2022 Riesling Estate has scents of yellow peach, pineapple, honey, ginger and bread dough. The light-bodied palate features full, ripe, tropical flavors and spicy accents. Its racy acidity is balanced by nine grams of residual sugar, and it has a long, flavorful finish." – Erin Brooks

2021 Riesling - 92 Points - Decanter (August 2023)

2020 Riesling - 91 Points - Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (May 2023)

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