

ELK COVE

VINEYARDS

2023 Reserve Pinot Noir



VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 14-37 years

Harvest Sugars: 24.5 brix

Vatting: Fermentation in small open top steel fermentors. 10 months in 44% new French oak.

pH: 3.63

TA: 5.1

Alc: 14.5% v/v

Bottled August 2024

Cases Produced: 190

VINTAGE 2023 required experience and patience that was rewarded with essential hang-time and ripening. The growing season started cool, then May sunshine brought an average bloom in mid-June followed by a glorious summer. We enjoyed many classic 80-degree Willamette Valley days, with nighttime highs staying down in the 50s even in August, typically the warmest month here in Oregon. The only exception to these consistent diurnal swings was a single big heat spike in mid-August. We anticipated picking in early September. However, some fortuitous rain events allowed us to push back harvest and we were thankful for the additional hang time.

Harvest came early, but not too early. We brought in beautiful fruit and we were pleased to still be picking Pinot noir into early October. When you have fast accumulation of fruit sugars, cool weather can be a welcome respite with even small amounts of rain helping the grapevines regulate and slow ripening. One of the reasons why Oregon Pinot Noir is so prized is for its freshness of fruit, and you can only get that vibrancy when it's under 50 degrees during picking.

2023 brought amazing fruit quality, but our production was down, especially on cool climate white wines like Pinot Gris. Being an estate grown winery, we must follow Mother Nature's lead as we cannot buy fruit to increase production. Smaller yields do mean a smaller crop and less wine, but we embrace vintage variation. Another great benefit of being estate grown is that it's our decision exactly when to pick. Rather than rushing to bring fruit into the cellar, in 2023 were able to play the odds and wait out the rain on blocks that needed additional hang time to get the flavor development we needed.

VINEYARD: Our winemaking team considers barrels from all of our estate plantings to make the Reserve our very best Pinot Noir. In 2022, the final blend included four barrels from La Bohème Vineyard, three from Roosevelt Vineyard, and one from our Mount Richmond East Vineyard.

WINEMAKING: We only make a Reserve in exceptional years, selecting less than 1% of our Pinot Noir to make the best wine we can imagine, balancing diverse components from our best vineyard blocks.

Our Reserve is both big and structured, designed to improve with cellaring for 20+ years.

REVIEWS:

95 Points - Robert Parker Wine Advocate (November 2025)

"A barrel selection, the 2023 Pinot Noir Reserve is bursting with scents of pomegranate, blueberry, rooibos tea, conifer and foresty undertones. Full-bodied, it floods the mouth with layer after layer of spicy fruit. It has a muscular frame of grainy tannins, bright acidity and a long, layered finish." - Erin Brooks