

Three expressions of terroir:
THE ELK COVE SOIL TRILOGY

A Single Vineyard Pinot Noir from each of the major Willamette Valley soil types made by the same winemaker.

Oregon has a wild geology shaped by volcanoes and floods, winds and time. This varied geology is one reason why the Northern Willamette Valley's diverse terroir is excellent for growing grapevines. Today, the three dominant soil types for growing Pinot Noir in our region are Willakenzie, Laurelwood and Jory. It took us decades, but our family now grows estate vineyards on each of these three soil types:

JORY
Volcanic Clay
RED FRUIT



LAURELWOOD
Windblown Silt
BLUE FRUIT



WILLAKENZIE
Marine Sediment
BLACK FRUIT



Jory is Oregon's official state soil, with a red hue and high clay content. It originates from weathered basalt from the Northwest's ancient supervolcanoes that blanketed the region in lava 6+ million years ago.

vineyard site:

Clay Court Pinot Noir

Laurelwood soils are some of the shallowest and youngest in Oregon, at just 1 million to 50,000 years old. These soils formed as silt from retreating glaciers and the cataclysmic Missoula floods was blown onto hillsides of volcanic bedrock.

vineyard sites:

Five Mountain Pinot Noir
Windhill Pinot Noir

Willakenzie soils are some of the most ancient in the valley, originating when an ancient seafloor was uplifted 15 million years ago. Its porous layers of sandstone and siltstone drain and dry out quickly.

vineyard sites:

Mount Richmond Pinot Noir
La Bohème Pinot Noir
Goodrich Pinot Noir
Roosevelt Pinot Noir