ELK COVE VINEYARDS

2021 Reserve



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-amillennium 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 winemaking team considers barrels from all of our estate plantings to make the Reserve our very best Pinot Noir. In 2021, the final blend included three barrels from our Mount Richmond Vineyard, two from Five Mountain, two from Roosevelt, one from Clay Court, and one from our Old Vines block at our Winery Estate.

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.

"This wine is made from the finest 9 barrels in our cellar. It's a parallel blending process to our Willamette Valley Pinot, but with an extremely small volume. Roosevelt lends great intensity to the 2021, but there's also richness from Mount Richmond and bright fruit from Clay Court. I love to think of this wine 15-20 years down the track since we make our Reserve with longevity in mind."

– Owner/Winemaker Adam Campbell

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

TASTING NOTES: Opening with cherry pie, black plum and cinnamon on the nose, this seamless wine carries intense flavors of cherry, blackberry and dusty tannin cocoa with finely integrated leather, fresh marjarom and tobacco on the finish.

VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 12-28 years
Harvest Sugars: 24 brix
Vatting: Fermentation in small open top steel fermentors.
10 months in 55% French oak.
pH: 3.47
TA: 5.9
Alc: 14% v/v
Bottled August 2022

REVIEWS:

95 Points - Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (May 2023)

"The 2021 Pinot Noir Reserve is a barrel selection from several of Elk Cove's vineyards. It has a medium ruby-purple color and savory aromas of red and black cherries, aniseed, pipe tobacco, flint and Christmas spice, continuing to unfurl aromatically as it airs in the glass. The light-bodied palate is chalky and refreshing with fragrant fruit and a long, latent finish. It feels particularly coiled and will benefit from 3-5 years in bottle." *–Erin Brooks*

96 Points & "Cellar Selection" - Wine Enthusiast (Feb. 2024)

93 Points - Decanter (Oct. 2023)

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