

2006 Pinot Noir Windhill



Windhill Vineyard, twenty miles west of Portland, is perennially one of Oregon's finest Pinot Noir vineyards. Planted in 1974, the vineyard became part of Elk Cove's portfolio in 1996 when Elk Cove purchased it. We have continued to produce limited production Single Vineyard designated wines from Windhill Vineyard since 1979! Temperate winds that blow across the vineyard's gentle south-facing slopes and a lower elevation (500 feet) situation than the estate vineyards at Elk Cove, allows for earlier ripening. The combination of super low yields, volcanic soils (Laurelwood) and great plant material (old vines – own rooted Pommard clone) are all essential elements for the finest Pinot Noir from this site in Western Oregon. Furthering our belief in sustainability, Windhill has been farmed with completely organic farming practices since 1999.

Vintage 2006 certainly has everyone offering up grand descriptions! "Everything ripened beautifully." "This is a rarity." "A warm, fully ripe vintage." Fruit set was ideal with a mild Spring. Months that followed were warm and dry, with short-lived heat spikes and a few intermittent cooling rains in the fall, advancing fruit ripeness. Feelings abound in the valley that the 2006 vintage seems to be a combination of the 1999's depth and the ripeness of 2003 (the only vintage warmer than 2006), but with better flavors and natural balance. The Pinot Noirs specifically seem to be very true to form with velvety tannins and a sexiness evocative of Pinot's feminine side. Put this with softer, darker blue fruits that are more generous and it's the makings of exceptional wines! In general, this vintage had us searching for negatives, finding only the six days of over 86 degrees in early harvest to fret over. But the results seem to be close to perfect!

Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 32 years
Yield: 2.1 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 25.9 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.55
Bottled: September 2007
6 Bottle Cases
Produced: 980

Reviews

91 Pts. ~ *Wine Enthusiast* ~ November 15, 2008

89 Pts. ~ *Robert Parker Wine Advocate* ~ November 2008

"The nose offers more earth and mineral notes, while on the palate the wine is firm and just a bit narrow. However, the texture is silky and the flavors racy, giving an overall impression of elegance."