

2009 Pinot Noir La Bohème



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 24 years
Yield: 2.6 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 25.5-26 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.64
Bottled: August 2010
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 533

The La Bohème Vineyard, planted in 1985, is now a 17-acre high-density site comprised of Pinot Noir grapes selected from the original Estate Pommard planting. The individual vines were isolated and chosen for their small clusters and berries with intense flavors, both characteristics of the world's finest Pinot Noirs. This picturesque vineyard rises to 800', overlooking the winery and original Estate vineyards, making it one of the highest elevations sites in the Willamette Valley. This steep hillside vineyard undergoes extensive pruning and cluster thinning to limit yields and maximize ripening in order to concentrate the fruit. La Bohème has been served twice at the White House, on the first occasion with herb-crusted pheasant breast at a state dinner for Helmut Kohl and the second dinner party with loin of lamb. Traditionally this is a seductive wine that would also compliment grilled salmon, veal or beef.

2009 was a vintage of abundance. Ideal springtime weather led to a hot summer, which gave us a beautiful, uniform and potentially prolific crop. Warm temperatures at harvest time lulled some growers into picking late, at potentially high alcohols. The right decision, top winemakers agree, was to get the grapes in while they still had fresh flavors. As always, we showed our commitment to quality by thinning and green harvesting to achieve earlier ripening and better concentration of flavors. As winemaker, Adam Campbell, states "harvest went off without a hitch and we picked the grapes at a deliberate but frankly leisurely pace which allowed focusing on retained acidity." So, vintage 2009 may be remembered as one of those rare combinations of excellent quality and quantity, with the wines showing flash.

Reviews

90 Pts. ~ *Wine & Spirits* ~ April, 2012

"Forward and spicy, leading with the scents of black cherry jam and red plum, this wine's flavors are just as fruit-driven, with a pleasing hint of anise."

90 Pts. ~ *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate* ~ October 31, 2011

"The current offering is dense for the vintage, intense, complex, and pleasure bent. This lengthy effort is likely to evolve for 1-2 years and should drink well through 2019." — J.M.

90 Pts. ~ *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar* ~ July/August 2011

"Vivid red. Blackberry and cherry-cola on the fragrant nose. Fleshy and smooth in texture, with nicely concentrated dark berry flavors and slow-mounting spiciness. The smooth finish shows no obvious tannins, leaving behind notes of candied cherry and smoke. This drinks very well now and could handle rich red meat dishes." — J. R.