

ELK COVE VINEYARDS



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 36 years
Yield: 1.75 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 23.5 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.66
Bottled: August 2011
12 Bottle Cases
Produced: 200

2010 Pinot Noir Windhill

Windhill Vineyard, twenty miles west of Portland sitting in the foothills of the Coast Range, 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 completely with organic farming practices since 1999.

Vintage 2010 brings to mind some catchy phrases. *The year of the birds – Hitchcock style, let 'em hang* and our favorite, and slogan for the vintage – *"Hang '10"*! Yes, harvest was later than normal. An exceptional cold, wet spring followed by what many seasoned producers recall as one of the shortest summers. However, 2010 was not the worst of years. The 'attack of our feathered friends,' whose almost unprecedented assault on valley fruit, also indicated nature's signal that the fruit was ripe and grapes good indeed. Winemaker, Adam Campbell, comments in response to vintage nervousness, "you know, we have been doing this for almost 40 years, and it's not the first time we've had slow ripening. We're optimistic about it and we know exactly what to do." Even science agrees. Climatologists show similarities to the great 2008 vintage; reporting lower yields, small berries and full flavor development at lower brix levels – all signs pointing to high quality wines with lower alcohols.



Windhill Vineyard