## ELK COVE



## **Viticultural Data:**

Vine Age: 19 years Yield: 1.75 tons/acre Harvest Sugars: 23 Brix

## **Enological Data:**

pH: 3.51

Bottled: August 2012

12 Bottle Cases

Produced 249

## 2011 Pinot Noir Roosevelt

This vineyard was planted in 1993 and has quickly become one of the Willamette Valley's preeminent sites. Roosevelt Vineyard is a fouracre planting situated just south of the winery on Willakenzie soils. The south-facing hillside points to a steep precipice overlooking the magnificent Williams Canyon. It is a high density planting (2100 vpa) spaced approximately one meter by two meters apart. This, our premier Single Vineyard site, undergoes extensive pruning and cluster thinning to limit yields and maximize ripening in order to concentrate the fruit. Following our beliefs in ecological farming we manage this site using complete organic practices. All of these elements combine at this one unique location on our estate property that consistently produces some of Oregon's finest Pinot Noirs to date.

At the close of harvest 2011, many winegrowers breathed a sigh of relief. Feelings of déjà vu from 2010 were evident as the picking pushed even later into the season, making it one of Oregon's latest harvests on record. Yet, differences will mark them unique. Yields in 2011 were opposite of 2010, when production was down significantly due to poor fruit set and damage at harvest from migrating birds. This year, sunny weather brought good fruit-set and large compact clusters. The large crop had many growers thinning to one cluster per shoot. And the birds did not 'help' reduce yields as they did in 2010. Thus allowing normal yields compared to the dramatically reduced vintage in 2010. While the heat index shows a warmer vintage in 2011 than 2010, most notable was when the heat came. This vintage brought the 'nice weather' late in the season allowing us to let the fruit hang 15 days longer for fantastic flavors and better pH and acid balance. Winemaker, Adam Campbell, comments, "the late and cool vintage really highlight why we choose to grow grapes on the viticultural edge. Extremely long hang time gave us wines with concentrated ripe fruit flavors, beautiful freshness and lower alcohol. These wines are why we love Oregon!" Reminding Oregon vintners, once again, those who held on patiently will be richly rewarded in the wines.

