ELK COVE
VINEYARDS

From the November 1, 2004

WINE ENTHUSIAST

World Series of Pinot Noir
2002 Vintage a Grand Slam

PINOT'S HEAVY HITTERS

Tasting Panelists sampled 250 California and 400 Oregon 2002 Pinot Noirs

Elk Cove

In a state blessed with gorgeous vineyards, Elk Cove owns some of the prettiest. The site, a bit farther north than most in Yamhill County, is tucked into the foothills of the Coast Range, and sits at an altitude of 600 to 800 feet. Grapes ripen fully while sugars remain in perfect balance with natural acids.

Adam Godlee Campbell took over the winemaking reins from his parents in 1998. Since then, he has introduced many changes, particularly in the vineyard, that have elevated Elk Cove from a good but uneven producer to one of Oregon's best. Standouts in the winery's lineup of textured, balanced and ageworthy Pinots are the Estate Reserve (90 points, $60) and the single-vineyard Roosevelt bottling (88 points, $48). Elk Cove's wines, along with Domaine Drouhin and Eyrie, are among those in Oregon that have a more sinuous, earthy and balanced style. Yields are kept low—only two tons per acre—and grapes are handpicked and handsorted. The Roosevelt, from a four-acre, high-density site just south of the winery, is set on a steep hillside that further limits yields and concentrates flavors. — Paul Gregutt



Pinot's Heavy Hitters

Elk Cove
Malvolio
Talley Vineyards
Gary Farrell
Rex Hill
Lemelson

OREGON'S HOME-RUN PINOTS



90 Elk Cove 2002 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)

Highly enjoyable and distinctive, with a soft, supple palate that smoothes together rich plum, blackberry and black cherry fruit. It's lean but not sour, subtle and lingering, with good grip and a hint of underbrush.