

## TASTING NOTES

The 2017 Estate Pinot Noir expresses the terroir of our three vineyards — the original planting by Founder Jim Bernau at the winery in the Salem Hills, Tualatin Estate planted by Oregon wine pioneer Bill Fuller in the foothills of the Coastal Range and Elton planted by Dick and Betty O'Brien on the east face of the Eola-Amity Hills.

This wine exemplifies the "Willamette Valley style" opening with aromas of strawberry, raspberry, florals and earth to create an elegant bouquet. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied and offers flavors of cherry, orange spice, dried herbs, bergamot and cedar around a frame of soft tannins and balancing acidity.

Peak drinkability 2019 - 2025.



All of our Estate Vineyards are Certified Sustainable.

## TECHNICAL DATA

**Grape Type:** Pinot Noir

**Appellation:** Willamette Valley

**Soil Type:** Jory (iron rich volcanic), Nekia (shallow, iron rich volcanic) and Laurelwood (windblown, glacial loess), including Pisolites and Missoula Flood sediment

**Clones:** Dijon 113, 114, 115, 667, 777, Pommard and Wädenswil

**Harvest Date:** Sept 28 - Oct 25, 2017

**Harvest Statistics**

**Brix:** 22° - 24.1°

**Titrateable acidity:** 6.75 g/L

**pH:** 3.29

**Finished Wine Statistics**

**Alcohol:** 13.7%

**Titrateable acidity:** 5.87 g/L

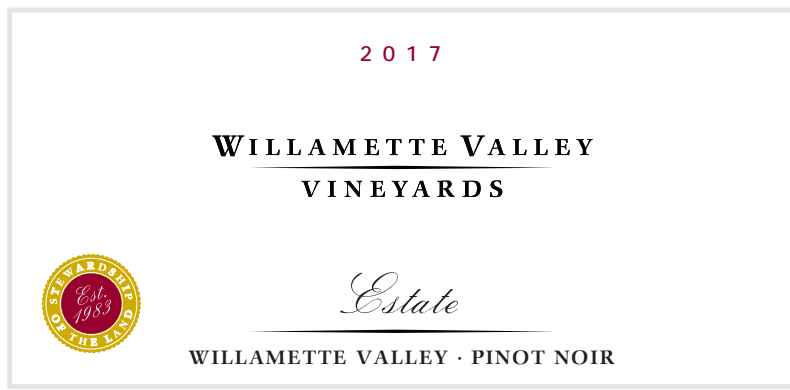
**pH:** 3.52

**Fermentation:** Small bins

**Barrel Regimen:** 9 months in barrel, 25% New French Oak

**Bottling Date:** December 2018

**Cases Bottled:** 13,292



## VINTAGE FACTS 2017

After a few dry winters, the 2016-17 winter provided ample rain and snowpack statewide. The winter gave way to a relatively cool and wet spring compared to the last few years. As a result, bud break in Oregon started closer to normal in mid-April. The spring warmed up with record heat in late May that initiated flowering in most areas of the state. However, a cool down in early June slowed flowering through the second and third week of the month then was followed by a few days of record high temperatures. Growers statewide noted that flowering was very complete and produced a very good fruit set. Many also indicated that the warm conditions in 2016 set the stage for increased fruitfulness, producing more clusters per vine and larger clusters.

July ramped up the heat moving the vintage rapidly to véraison. However, August saw multiple one day records for maximum daytime temperatures with heat stress events early and late in the month. The result was that August 2017 was the warmest August on record in the state and the majority of the western US. Growers noted that the heat stress did not produce much sunburn but may have delayed ripening in some varieties. There was no impact of smoke from forest fires on Willamette Valley producers, unlike Southern Oregon and the Columbia Gorge AVAs, except that the possible disadvantages of the hazy weather during early stages of ripening reduced sunlight intensity and could have caused reduced photosynthesis.

A warm early September accelerated fruit development, but was slowed by a cool down mid-month. Feeling that the harvest was going to be fast and furious, growers breathed a sigh of relief with the cooler conditions and proceeded to have a slow and steady harvest. From grower reports, 2017 ended with near average to slightly higher than average sugar and acid levels with many touting beautiful flavors and well-balanced fruit.

*Courtesy of the Oregon Wine Board.*

## THE VINEYARDS

**Estate Vineyard:** Planted in 1983 by Founder Jim Bernau on a south facing volcanic flow, the vineyard has 53 acres of vines at 500 to 750 feet in elevation. The first Dijon clones were planted in 1993. The Nekia and Jory soils are well drained to a depth of one and a half to six feet.

**Tualatin Estate Vineyard:** Established in 1973, Laurelwood soil covers most of the vineyard — formed over thousands of years on layers of wind-blown, glacial silt called loess. High concentrations of rusted iron balls called pisolites riddle the top layer and are caused by the weathering of minerals in the soil. This unique soil profile contributes to the Pinot Noir's complex nature and rose petal aromas.

**Elton:** In 2006, *Wine & Spirits* listed it as one of the five key vineyards in the new Eola-Amity Hills American Viticultural Area. In 2007, Elton Vineyard was named one of Oregon's top ten vineyards by *Wine Press Northwest*. Planted in 1983, the vineyard now includes sixty acres on east-southeast slopes of the Eola Hills. The elevation rises from 250-500 feet, and the soil is Jory and Nekia.

## WINEMAKING NOTES

The stylistic vision is pure Pinot Noir fruit with a juicy mouthfeel, balanced oak and soft, sweet, ripe tannins. The methodology includes attention to detail from vineyard to bottle. Picked at peak ripeness, the fruit was gently destemmed, with approximately 90% of the berries remaining intact for intra-berry fermentation, which adds lively fruit forward characteristics. Prior to fermentation, the must underwent a seven day pre-fermentation cold soak which provides complexity, color and mouthfeel. On the seventh day, the must was inoculated with commercial yeast. After 8-12 days of fermentation in small fermenters, punched down by hand, the must was pressed out and allowed to settle in the tank overnight. The new wine was barreled with light, fluffy lees where it underwent malolactic fermentation.

## FOOD &amp; SERVING SUGGESTIONS

This wine will pair beautifully with classic Pinot Noir dishes including Oregon lamb, steelhead, duck, pork, mushrooms and aged cheeses.

