

2017 PINOT NOIR *Tualatin Estate*

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 VINEYARD

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.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The stylistic vision is pure Pinot Noir fruit with a soft, 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 70% of the berries remaining intact for intraberry fermentation, which adds lively fruit-forward characteristics. Prior to fermentation, the must underwent a five day pre-fermentation cold soak providing improved complexity, color and mouthfeel. On the fifth 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.

TECHNICAL DATA

Grape Type: Pinot Noir

Clones: 114, 115, 667, 777, Pommard

Appellation: Willamette Valley

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

Harvest Date: October 3 – 14, 2017

Harvest Statistics

- **Brix:** 22.9°
- **Titrateable Acidity:** 5.48 g/L
- **pH:** 3.34

Finished Wine Statistics

- **Alcohol:** 13.1%
- **Titrateable Acidity:** 5.63 g/L
- **pH:** 3.55
- **Sulfate Level:** low

Fermentation: Small bins

Barrel Regimen: 16 months in barrel, 21% new French oak

Bottling Date: March 14 – 15, 2019

Cases Produced: 665

TASTING NOTES

Ruby in color, the nose displays notes of red cherry, orange spice, violets and cedar. An elegant frame of bright acidity and firm tannins surround mouth-filling flavors of cranberry, raspberry, earth, pumpkin spice and anise.

Peak Drinkability: 2020 – 2028

FOOD PAIRINGS

Brined turkey with all the fixings, apple and sausage stuffed acorn squash, roast chicken with cranberry marmalade and duck breast with pomegranate-citrus glaze.

