

2010 Pinot Noir Willamette Valley



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 9-37 years
Yield: 1.6 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 23 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.55
Bottled: September 2011
12 Bottle
Cases Produced: 7,227

All of Elk Cove's delicate Pinot Noir fruit undergoes the same meticulous vineyard management and gentle handling through our gravity flow system, thus achieving the elegance, texture and luscious quality that are the hallmarks of exquisite Pinot Noirs. From the early pioneering days to now, our Willamette Valley Pinot Noir has remained the foundation of Elk Cove Vineyards. This Pinot Noir is blended from several select vineyard sites comprised of Pommard and Dijon plant material and shows the softest, most approachable drinking style Elk Cove makes.

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.

Reviews

92 Pts. - Year's Best Pinot Noir ~ Wine & Spirits ~ April, 2013

“Oak-driven with a chocolate cherry scent, this wine mellows and integrates with air, revealing a spicy black cherry core that feels warm, supple and giving. The tannins are round, the finish fresh and lively. For roast salmon.”

91 Pts. - Smart Buy ~ Wine Spectator ~ February, 2013

“Light on its feet and intense in flavor, offering tea leaf-accented cherry and pomegranate flavors, with nicely buffed tannins. Finishes with richness and deftness. Drink now through 2018. 7,227 cases made.” — H.S.

97 Pts. - Best Buy ~ Portland Monthly - Oregon's 50 Best Wines ~ October 2012

“This beautiful, inexpensive pinot delivers what fans around the world think of as a classic Oregon version, with bold aromatics of black cherry and truffle that seem to jump right out of the glass. From one of Oregon's pioneering wineries — boasting a legacy of nearly four decades of great wine.”

89 Pts. ~ Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar ~ July/August 2012

“Aromas and flavors of blackberry, cherry compote and spices, with hints of woodsmoke and mocha. Supple, broad and open-knit. In a plush, fruit-driven style but with good intensity and finishing bite.” — J.R.