

2009 Pinot Blanc



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 7-17 years
Yield: 3 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 22.9 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.37
Bottled: May 2010
Cases Produced: 1,930

The Willamette Valley has a suitable climate for this delicate grape variety—enough sunlight and warmth for ripening and cooler night temperatures to retain varietal character. To preserve the freshness, it is whole-cluster pressed, and then fermented at very cool temperatures in small stainless steel tanks, which accentuates aromatics and enhances the richness and viscosity. The fruit is hand-harvested from select hillside vineyards in the northern Willamette Valley.

2009 was a vintage of abundance. Ideal springtime weather led to a hot summer, which gave us a beautiful, uniform and potentially prolific crop. Warm temperatures at harvest time lulled some growers into picking late, at potentially high alcohols. The right decision, top winemakers agree, was to get the grapes in while they still had fresh flavors. As always, we showed our commitment to quality by thinning and green harvesting to achieve earlier ripening and better concentration of flavors. As winemaker, Adam Campbell, states “harvest went off without a hitch and we picked the grapes at a deliberate but frankly leisurely pace which allowed focusing on retained acidity.” So, vintage 2009 may be remembered as one of those rare combinations of excellent quality and quantity, with the wines showing flash.

Completing the third leg of our trilogy, Pinot Blanc is true to our style of white wines; clean, crisp and focused on the fruit. While great ripeness is apparent in this wine, lean and racy also describes the 2009 Pinot Blanc. This fruit is blended of, not only, both Elk Cove Vineyards’ Estate and Mount Richmond vineyards but also one other select site in the Willamette Valley, Tukwilla near Dundee. We hope you enjoy this wine selection from Elk Cove Vineyards.

Reviews

Excellent ~ Wine Press Northwest ~ Winter 2010/2011

“Few other wineries in Oregon approach this variety with as much dedication. Aromas of Golden Delicious apple, jasmine, orange blossom, lemon peel, chalkboard dust and a dab of petroleum jelly. It’s a smooth delivery of more apple, lemon chiffon and pineapple with orange pith, almond and fennel in the farewell.”