



FORAGER

2021 · PINOT NOIR
WILLAMETTE VALLEY

HIGHLIGHTS

Low-yielding, mature sites across the Willamette Valley, classic low intervention winemaking and careful maturation captures the typicity of these sites and the purity of this noble grape variety. FORAGER speaks to how growing, gathering, and judiciously blending small lots of delicious Pinot Noir can deliver serious flavor and interest.

VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season started dry with moderate spring temperatures. Some rain at bloom knocked down yields and was followed by a short June heat wave. September brought welcome rain and cool nights which enhanced flavor development. It's a monumental, albeit small, vintage that will be long remembered.

LOCATION

The depth of our 2021 Pinot Noir comes from two Pinot Noir selections grown in two Willamette Valley locales. The 1st is at 500' altitude, LIVE Certified and dry-farmed in Jory (red volcanic) soils. The 2nd is a site in Tualatin's rolling hills with Willakenzie (sedimentary) soils. Both sites were hand-pruned and picked.

Regional Composition: 100% Willamette Valley AVA (Yamhill-Carlton AVA 58%, Tualatin Hills AVA 42%)

Clone/Selections: 777, Pommard 5

Maturation: 30% New French Barrels for eleven months

CELLAR

Hand-harvested between September 14 and October 9, the compact Pinot Noir bunches were handled with a very light touch in cellar and hand-sorted with about 40% in whole clusters, then crushed, and cold macerated in 5-ton open-top fermenters. A very light dash of natural sulfur was added at the crusher and fermentation began with prevailing, "local" natural yeasts. Moderate fermentation temperature (85°F) and 1 *pigeage* per day helped build structure. After a gentle press (<1 bar), ML took place in barrel followed by 11 months maturation which contributed spiciness and a velvety mouthfeel. 10% new French oak plays a supporting role. After a light "polish" filtration, 38 barrels (~950 cases) were bottled in July 2023.

IMPACT

In addition to LIVE Certified and other well-managed vineyards, we have adopted carbon-neutral, Forest Stewardship Council-certified and biodegradable natural corks because cork forests sequester about one ton of carbon per year. A well-farmed natural vineyard will also sequester about ½ ton of carbon *per year*. FSC-certified recycled post-consumer paper labels incorporate compostable inks. We also moved to a lighter weight (490 grams) recycled glass bottle.

TASTING NOTES

Our new label features a vintage Polaroid of Oregon's bounty; foraged chanterelle mushrooms. This gorgeous Pinot Noir opens with aromas of ripe cherries and hints of delicate roses. The youthful, complex palate offers ripe blood orange, tamarind and cola. The soft, velvety tannins and what we call "crunchy" acidity come together in a generously textured way, bringing it home with an incredibly long, savory finish. Yum. This is a small-lot handmade wine and thus may throw a harmless natural deposit.



The Pey Family

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pH: 3.61 | Alc. 12.8%

Residual Sugar: 1.5 g/L (very dry)

Total production: 780 cases