



2007 Premier Cuvée Oregon Pinot Noir

ORIGIN: Our search to produce world-class Pinot Noir led us to the Dundee Hills of Oregon. Premier Cuvée, our proprietary blend, is made from both our oldest Pommard vines and Dijon clones 113, 114, 115, 667, and 777. Our hillside vineyards, which are planted with up to 4,800 vines per acre, are tended exclusively by our crew of dedicated vineyard workers.

VINEYARD: Our narrowly spaced estate vineyards are planted in volcanic Jory soil and are on east, south-east and south-west facing slopes. We have planted Dijon clones 113, 114, 115, 667, and 777 on selected rootstocks in high-density vineyard blocks to complement our older self-rooted Pommard and Wädenswil vines. Premier Cuvée is a combination of fruit from our five vineyard Estates: Arcus Estate, Red Hills Estate, Renegade Ridge Estate and Archery Summit Estate in the Dundee Hills AVA, and Looney Vineyard located in the Ribbon Ridge AVA. Cooler temperatures during the growing season and harvest of 2007 imparted both elegance and ageability to the wine. The 2007 vintage is one of great precision both in fruit expression and the terroir indicative of each vineyard site.

WINEMAKING: Fruit for the 2007 Premier Cuvée was hand picked between September 21st and October 12th. The fermentation was conducted in both stainless steel and wooden open top fermentors with an average 12% whole clusters. The fruit was hand sorted and soaked cold for five to ten days, after which native yeast fermentation was allowed to proceed under temperature-controlled conditions. During primary fermentation, tanks were punched down one to three times per day. After limited post fermentation maceration, the wine was sent via gravity to 54% new French oak barrels, and aged for 10 months prior to bottling in August of 2008.

TASTING NOTES: This wine opens with perfumed aromas of black cherry and raspberry, spicy plum and violets. On the palate, blueberry, plum, cassis and earthy notes converge around a fresh core of bright acidity and plush tannin lending this wine structure, vitality and grace. There is precision in the expression of fruit and an elegant yet ample succulent structure which progresses to a finish that is long and lasting with hints of blueberries, spiced cherries, exotic incense and fresh rose petals. This lovely wine is drinking well now but may also be enjoyed over the next five to eight years with proper cellaring.