



Wine Tech Notes

2012 Pinot Noir *CELILLO VINEYARD*

150 cases produced • 12.8% Alc by Vol.

Tasting Notes

Truly mountain grown fruit, Celilo Vineyard produces wines of exceptional focus and clarity. This vintage, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of this Pinot Noir planting. Located on an extinct volcano at high elevation overlooking the Columbia River Gorge, Celilo gives us Pinot with a delicate perfume of raspberry and pie cherry, echoed by subtle notes of anise with silky tannins and a bright finish.



Harvest Notes

Vineyard: Celilo Vineyard (1972)
Appellation: Columbia Gorge
Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards

We became acquainted with Rick Ensminger, the vineyard manager for **Celilo**, in 1997. We were well aware of the reputation for both Chardonnay and Gewürztraminer produced from this vineyard and were pleasantly surprised to discover the two acre block of Pinot Noir planted in 1972. Since this discovery, we have given special attention to lower yields and canopy management on this block to create an exceptional Pinot Noir of great character and personality.

The vineyard sits directly on the crest of the Cascade Mountains on a bluff 1,100' in elevation on Underwood Mountain, overlooking the Columbia River Gorge. This is a unique environment where marine, desert, and alpine climates intersect to provide weather patterns perfect for distinctive Pinot Noir. Rows are oriented north-south and the vines are trained to a Scott-Henry trellis. Clusters are thinned to one per shoot with all shoulders cut off to maintain yields of less than 2 tons per acre. Soils are volcanic and are dry farmed.

Vinification

The fruit was hand harvested and transported to the winery in the early morning. 80% of the fruit was de-stemmed, 20% kept whole cluster, and all gravity fed into fermenters. Inoculated fermentation was in open top fermenters with manual pigeage. Pressed at dryness and barreled in older French oak. Bottled in 11 months.