



2021 Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley

Why is the entry-level wine called Reserve?: Patricia Green Cellars has been around long enough that when we began our winery in 2000 there was still concern that the AVA “Willamette Valley” was not particularly well known around the country. Yes, those were different times. So, this bottling was actually labeled as “Oregon” from 2000-2005. However, in 2002 we had 10 barrels from various vineyards that were very good, but not quite in line with what we were doing with the single vineyards the barrels came from, however we felt like they made a special wine above and beyond the Oregon bottling. We bottled them and called it “Reserve”. By 2006 it was clear that the Willamette Valley had made an indelible and lasting mark at a national and even international level and that it was time for us to ditch the Oregon moniker. However, the way our labels were set up back then we needed to have something in the stripe at the bottom of the label to identify the wine. To make this even more ponderous of a story, the issues in getting label approval back then were quite real as the ATF (at the time) did not have an online way to submit so approvals could take months. We decided to use the already approved “Reserve” label as we felt that this wine was more than some basic “Willamette Valley” bottling that had become a catchall for larger wineries cheapest Pinot Noir. And a decade and a half later it has all worked out. The wine is still an excellent quality Pinot Noir with vineyard sources that are quite astonishing given the wine’s place in our long lineup.

What are those astonishing vineyards?:

Anderson Family Vineyard	.40%
Arcus Vineyard	2.42%
Arlyn Vineyard	17.34%
Calling Springs Vineyard	4.44%
Chehalem Mountain Vineyard	4.03%
Corrine Vineyard	3.23%
Durant Vineyard	2.02%
Estate Vineyard	19.35%
Flanerie Vineyard	2.02%
Freedom Hill Vineyard	14.92%
Hyland Vineyard	5.65%
La Belle Promenade	.40%
Lia’s Vineyard	.40%
Lillie’s Vineyard	8.06%
Ridgecrest Vineyard	1.21%
Shafer Vineyard	3.63%
Weber Vineyard	10.08%
Wind Ridge Vineyard	.40%

Of those sites only one vineyard, Calling Springs, is not used either by us or another winery to make a vineyard designated Pinot Noir. Three vineyards have vines represented here that were planted in the 1970s. The point is that this wine is not some casual dumping ground of young vine stuff from unheralded sites. This is a wonderful assemblage of some of the top sites in the Willamette Valley.

What was the deal with the Heat Dome and why isn’t this wine like a hot vintage wine?: Yes, 2021 was the hottest summer on record here in our part of the world. During a four day stretch in June the temperature at the Estate Vineyard hit 119 F. The hottest day ever recorded in Newberg, Oregon is now hotter than the hottest day ever recorded in Las Vegas, NV. Crazy. Again, in August, just days before we began picking, another stretch of 5 days saw temperatures reach 100 F each day. Yet, this Pinot Noir and our other 35 bottlings of Pinot Noir (yes, you read that right, we made 36 Pinot Noirs in 2021) are high-toned, red-fruited, moderate in alcohol (13.5% on this bottling) and the antithesis of what one might expect from a hot vintage wine. As to why this occurred? Not entirely sure. Vines are funny that way. We think we know everything about them when in fact we know quite little about plant biology. Nonetheless, this wine is round enough to be appealing in the here and now, acidic enough to be great with food and structured enough to give the wine depth and length. Balanced. As it should be.

Wine Making and Notes: This bottling comes from terrific sources. The 2021 has a make-up of unique pedigree for a wine at its pricing. Slightly over 33% comes from our Estate Vineyard from which we bottled 6 individual single vineyard/block bottlings in 2021. Other sources of significance are Freedom Hill Vineyard which is one of the most famous (and deservedly so) sites in the state, Corrine (formerly Olenik) Vineyard which we have bottled single vineyard Pinots from since 2009, Ridgecrest Vineyard which is an older Ribbon Ridge AVA, Weber Vineyard in the Dundee Hills and 50-year-old vines from Shafer Vineyard in the Tualatin Hills AVA! You get the picture. This isn't throwaway stuff mixed together and then hope for the best. This is an intentional wine filled with basically declassified single vineyard quality wine in it.

This wine carries the breadth of the winery in other ways as well. From completely destemmed grapes to 100% whole cluster fermentations, all winemaking stylistic decisions are represented within this bottling. The three most important AVAs in the Willamette Valley to us (and likely the two most prestigious and sought after) are Ribbon Ridge (where we are located), the Dundee Hills and Chehalem Mountains. 75% of this wine comes from those three AVAs. To show those AVAs in their pure fruit form about 50% of the volume of this wine comes from neutral barrels while only 2% of the blend are from new barrels.

The 2021 vintage is an unusual one where the high heat neither translated into dark nor high alcohol wines. Wines are particularly red fruited, ripe, supple and delicious at early ages in this vintage. Perfect for a bottling that values consumption at a youthful age.

This winery has always been dedicated to the concept of the highest-level quality without necessarily attaching a corresponding price point. Patty and I always wanted to have a winery that made wines that we liked to drink, but more importantly a winery that had wines we would, were we the customer, feel good about paying for. This Reserve Pinot Noir is as an important bottling to us and this winery as the lowest production, super-fancy, and exclusive wine that we make. Lots of people see, buy, and drink this wine and that is something that we love.

Production: 6,165 cases bottled.