



2014 Freedom Hill Vineyard Willamette Valley Appellation

Location: Eola-Amity Hills is a sub-appellation of the Willamette Valley AVA located just west-northwest of Salem, Oregon's state capitol.

Wine history: The agricultural history of this area near Salem dates back to the mid-1850s, though it wasn't until the 1970s that winemakers started to discover the area as having ideal growing conditions for high-quality wine grapes. It was around this time that a few modern pioneers, including Don Byard of Hidden Springs, planted a patchwork of vineyards in the Eola-Amity Hills. Soon after, other pioneers followed suite and today this area produces world-class, handcrafted cool-climate varietals. The appellation became official in 2006.

Climate: The Eola-Amity Hills region enjoys a temperate climate of warm summers and mild winters, and 40 inches of annual rain, most of which falls outside of the growing season. Average maximum temperatures are 62 degrees Fahrenheit in April and 83 degrees Fahrenheit in July, which contributes to the ideal conditions for the cool-climate grape varieties that dominate the Eola-Amity Hills. The climate in this region is greatly influenced by its position due east of the Van Duzer Corridor, which provides a break in the coast range that allows cool Pacific Ocean air to flow through. This drops temperatures in the region dramatically, especially during late summer afternoons, helping to keep grape acids firm.

Soil: The soils in the Eola-Amity Hills predominantly contain volcanic basalt from ancient lava flows as well as marine sedimentary rocks and alluvial deposits at the lower elevations of the ridge. This combination results in a relatively shallow, rocky set of well-drained soils, which typically produce small grapes with great concentration.

Topography: The Eola Hills, and its northern extension, the Amity Hills, are part of a North Willamette Valley hill chain that developed out of intense volcanic activity and the collision of the Pacific and North American plates. The main ridge of the Eola Hills runs north-south and has numerous lateral ridges on both sides that run east-west. The majority of the region's vineyard sites exist at elevations between 250 to 700 feet.

Site Characteristics: Freedom Hill Vineyard lies toward the eastern edge of the Coast Range Foothills. While associated geographically with the Eola Hills the site lies south and west of the border of the Eola-Amity Hill Appellation outside the town of Monmouth. The vineyard is planted on a marine sedimentary type of soil known as Bellpine. The vineyard is also located just south of the Van Duzer wind corridor which allows for more consistent average temperatures due to a lack of afternoon and evening offshore breezes rolling through. The vineyard was established in 1982 by the people who still own and manage it to this day, Dan and Helen Dusschee. While they may not have realized it at the time they were ultimately settling onto a site destined to be seen as one of the top Pinot Noir vineyards in the state of Oregon. Their rigorous and professional approach to the management of the vineyard has brought about that greatness and even though the vineyard suffered through a scourge of phylloxera replantings and expansion of the site have shown that there is a clear and indomitable of terroir here.

We get five sections of Freedom Hill Vineyard covering three clones (Pommard, Dijon 115 and Coury). This makes us one of the largest producers of Pinot Noir from this site in the state. This bottling is basically an homage to the great wines produced by the likes of St. Innocent, Ken Wright and Panther Creek. This takes all sections and clones into account. This is about 85% Dijon 115, 10% Pommard and 5% Coury Clone. The idea here is to create a wine that encapsulates Freedom Hill as a whole site and make a wine that has enough volume to be distributed on a far wider basis than the single clone bottlings will be.

Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noirs are among the most established bottlings in the state with well over two decades of incredible wines. They lean towards a dark fruit profile that has sappy, dry extract to spare, a luxurious nature to the texture and no shortage of tannins to keep everything pulled in. Best examples age remarkably well. This is a big boy Pinot Noir in 2014. Incredibly intense and very darkly fruited with quite a wealth of finishing tannin. There is a range of fermentation techniques from completely de-stemmed to over 50% whole cluster across the different clones that adds complexity and shows the broad yet well-defined character of this great Oregon Pinot Noir vineyard. 888 cases bottled

Production: 888 cases bottled.

