



## 2024 Helen Dusschee Rosé of Tempranillo, Freedom Hill Vineyard

**AVA:** Willamette Valley

**LOCATION:** Burnell Rd., Dallas, OR

**ELEVATION:** 500'

**SOIL TYPE:** Bellpine

**YEAR PLANTED:** 2012

**CLONAL MATERIAL:** 100% Tempranillo

**VINIFICATION:** 100% inoculated in stainless steel

**PICKING DATE:** October 5, 2024

**TONS/ACRE:** 9.19 (that is correct)

**OWNERS:** Helen & Dan Dusschee

**PRODUCTION:** 632 cases bottled

**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 of 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 settling onto a site destined to be 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 replanting's, expansion of the site has shown that there is a distinct and indomitable terroir.

This is a wonderful and historic vineyard that has produced single vineyard Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays and Pinot Blancs from a range of wineries dating back into the early 1990s. We are fortunate to have this as our second largest source of fruit after our Estate Vineyard and thus provided us with the access to this small section of fruit that very few people even know exists. As the back label specifies, we are no strangers to powerful, unique and strong women here at Patricia Green Cellars and we chose to use Helen Dusschee's name on this bottling to emphasize our connection not only to this site but the founders of Freedom Hill Vineyard.

**Winemaking and Notes:** Years ago, we committed to NOT making rosé because we liked drinking it too much to get into the business of crafting it. That was largely in part because of our belief that rosé should be made from red grapes that have more inherent muscularity than Pinot Noir and being up here in the Northern Willamette Valley means that access to grapes such as Mourvèdre, Grenache, Carignan or Tempranillo was incredibly limited to non-existent. Little did we know that lurking within Freedom Hill Vineyard was a block of Tempranillo that they had planted in 2012 at the behest of another winery that has since left the scene. Tempranillo grows in a very upright fashion and has gangly, large clusters that are particularly resistant to botrytis. Due to the climate in the Northern Willamette Valley, there really isn't any way to get these grapes ripe enough to make them into any sort of red wine (we tried another winery's efforts and they were, well, let's say they confirmed that it *shouldn't* be done). However, that means these grapes get perfectly ripe for delicious rosé that has both the firmness of acidity and the soft, sweetness to

make for a wine that can stand in with the best rosés made in a world that makes more and more mediocre rosé from grape varieties not really up to the task.

This was picked while there were still berries that had not changed color on the cluster and accordingly this was picked at 19.5 brix (thus the 12.5% alcohol) and a TA of 7.9 which gives the wine its bright, lifted character. These gangly clusters were lightly whole-bunch pressed and racked a few times off the lees before permanently residing in a stainless-steel tank for about six months before being bottled before finishing malolactic fermentation. This wine is bone-dry with plenty of acidity, yet it comes off as easy on the palate and very much ready to be drunk over the next several months. There are tons of rosés being made in the world, many by wineries that are simply passing along juice drained off red wine cuvées or making stuff out of grapes that don't really make great rosé. Buy your pink wine from a winery that has a sterling reputation for great varietal wine as well as making one of the world's greatest blueberry wines and a line of whiskeys that compete with any whiskey on the planet. Rosé is meant to be fun, but making it is still a serious job if you want actual, real wine in the end. This wine finished with a TA of 6.8 and a pH of 3.14. Due to the high acidities a minimal amount of SO<sub>2</sub> was used and the wine has a free SO<sub>2</sub> of under 20 ppm and a total ppm of under 50 ppm.

