



## 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley

**2024 Vintage Story:** *2024 was a year of a very dry summer. Endless sunny days. Maybe one of the easier years to take care of vineyards in recent times as it wasn't as humid as 2019 and 2022, not as hot as 2021 and 2018 and, thank goodness, there were no wildfires like 2020. This translated into perfectly manicured vineyards with excellent yields of gorgeously and perfectly ripe fruit. Winemaking conditions were nearly ideal and the winery itself oft times smelled more like a bakery making fruit muffins than it did a place fermenting grapes into wine! This was simply a vintage that seemed to exist in the romantic nature of vintages rather than in the "reality of farming" nature of actual vintages. The wines were a pleasure to work with from beginning to end and the results are wines that reflect to a tee where they came from. This is, seemingly, a rare vintage so, act accordingly.*

**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:

VINEYARD	BARRELS	PERCENT OF BLEND
DURANT VINEYARD	43	24.16%
ESTATE VINEYARD	31.33	17.60%
HYLAND VINEYARD	28.33	15.92%
WEBER VINEYARD	27	15.17%
FOLLY OF MAN VINEYARD	17.67	9.93%
LILLIE'S VINEYARD	15	8.43%
LA BELLE PROMENADE VINEYARD	10.50	5.90%
SHAFER VINEYARD	2.75	1.54%
FREEDOM HILL VINEYARD	2.42	1.36%

All of these sites, with the exception of Folly of Man, produce at least one vineyard designated Pinot Noir. Four 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.

**2024 is the best bottling of the Reserve Pinot Noir in Patricia Green Cellar's history:** Certainly, beauty is in the eye of the beholder but there has unquestionably never been a Reserve bottling that had this much wine from sites of such gravitas as the 2024 has in it. 2024 overall is an excellent vintage and the wines produced from these sites are fantastic, as their individual bottlings can attest to. We simply had more barrels from a variety of our best sites than we needed for the vineyard designated bottlings. The result of that is a Reserve Pinot Noir absolutely jam-packed with fruit from vines planted between 25-50 years ago.

**Wine Making and Notes:** This bottling comes from terrific sources. The Reserve has always been a wine that looked to excellent and renowned vineyards for its make-up. The 2024 has an excellent and a completely unique pedigree, as noted above, for a wine at its pricing. For instance, nearly 16% of this bottling comes from fruit off of Hyland Vineyard. Our Hyland Vineyard, Coury Clone Pinot Noir bottling retails at \$75/bottle. All of the barrels in the Reserve from Hyland easily could have gone into the Hyland Vineyard bottling had we chosen to make that much of that wine.

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 level of vineyards in this wine has always been something else and this year that facet is concentrated to an incredible degree. The 9 vineyards that make up this bottling would all be most winery's best vineyard. Over 77 barrels of the 178 total barrels come from vine planted between 1972-1983. That's 42-53-year-old vines in a \$30-ish bottle of Pinot Noir. That is essentially unheard of in this day and age. 2024 Reserve Pinot Noir is nothing BUT a pedigree monster!

As noted earlier, the 2024 vintage is simply a great vintage. Possibly as great as the 2023 which we have touted as the greatest in the 25-vintage history of the winery. All the 2024s are particularly richly red-fruited, intense, deep and delicious at early ages in this vintage. Perfect for a bottling that values consumption at a youthful age even if it possesses unusual aging capacity for an Oregon Pinot Noir at this price.

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:** 4,368 cases bottled.

The wine was bottled with a TA of 5.3 and a pH of 3.54. Bottled with under 30 PPM free SO<sub>2</sub> and 75 PPM total SO<sub>2</sub>.

**ABV:** 13.5%

**Tasting Note:** *Please be aware that I am loathe to write tasting notes on our wines. Each person has an individual palate and therefore unique experiences with every wine. Also, what a person has tasted in their life and what they enjoy informs them on what a wine is like. If I tell you a wine tastes like cherries and you either have never had a cherry or don't like cherries what I am saying is irrelevant information. That being said I have been asked to include my thoughts on each wine (since we have so many).*

The 2024 Willamette Valley Reserve Pinot Noir is, as always, a great indicator of what to expect from Patricia Green Cellars' wines from the vintage. In this vintage's case it is even more than that. This wine has flavor intensity, texture, complexity, structure and length that are usually impossible to find in this combination in a Pinot Noir at this price point because wineries generally don't have this much incredible old vine wine available to not only supplement their entry-level Pinot Noir, but be the actual backbone of it. This is red-fruited, highly perfumed Pinot Noir with the sort of high-level texture and length that are normally found in wines of double the price and more. This is utterly delicious now but will be a rare bottling at this level that would age easily for over a decade.