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2015 PINOT NOIR WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Tasting Notes:

Our estate Dunn Forest Vineyard and BeckenRidge Vineyard combined to create this lovely food companion. Aromas of black cherry enhance the pomegranate flavors with notes of cocoa. Bright acidity and chewy tannins make this wine enjoyable now and a perfect food companion.

Winemaking Notes:

The fruit was gently de-stemmed by a Euro Select into 1.5-ton fermenters leaving a very high whole berry content. A three or four day cold soak preceded inoculation done with a variety of yeasts designed to increase complexity and mouth-feel. Fermentations were punched down twice a day for ten days with temperatures peaking around 91°F. The wine was racked via gravity to settling tanks keeping each lot separate and was allowed to settle for two days before being racked to French oak barrels. The skins were shoveled into the press and pressed off to their own settling tank before racking. Keeping the free run and press wines separate gives me more flexibility in summer when we start blending. The wines were inoculated for malo-lactic and allowed to age for 10 months. At the end of August the barrels were racked to tank for blending and crossflow filtering. The wine was bottled in September 2016.

Harvest Notes:

The 2015 growing season is now the warmest on record for the Willamette Valley. The prolonged heat posed some real challenges for this vintage. Initially we thought we would have a surplus of grapes which can lead to ripening issues but as the 100+ degree days persisted, our concerns were that the higher temps would yield fruit that lacked acidity. Prolonged higher temps can also produce higher alcohol content due to the increase in sugar. We chose harvest dates carefully to avoid those issues leading to our earliest pick of BeckenRidge Pinot noir.

Our winery and vineyards are LIVE Certified Sustainable and Salmon Safe. The vineyards are hand cultivated allowing us to respond to individual vine needs.

Wine Information:

Alcohol: 13.0%
pH: 3.49
Titrateable Acidity: 6.7 g/L
Malolactic: Yes
Barrel Aging: 10 months
Cooperage: 13% new French oak
14% 1 year French oak
Number of Cases: 1,388

Harvest Information:

Appellation: Willamette Valley
Clones: Pommard, 115, 777
Vineyard Sources:

- Dunn Forest (Estate) planted 1983, 1991, 2008 (70%)
- BeckenRidge planted 1978 (30%)

Harvest Dates:

- Dunn Forest: Sep 30th
- BeckenRidge: Sep 25th

Sugar: 22.3^o Brix
pH: 3.37
Titrateable Acidity: 5.8 g/L

