



2022 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 particularly 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 most 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	8	5.56%
ARCUS VINEYARD	3	2.08%
CHEHALEM MOUNTAIN VINEYARD	10	6.94%
CORRINE VINEYARD	8	5.56%
COULEE VINEYARD	16	11.11%
DURANT VINEYARD	3	2.08%
ESTATE VINEYARD	28	19.44%
FREEDOM HILL VINEYARD	37	25.69%
HYLAND VINEYARD	32	22.22%
LA BELLE PROMENADE VINEYARD	5	3.47%
LIA'S VINEYARD	1	0.69%
WEBER VINEYARD	9	6.25%

All of these sites produce at least one vineyard designated Pinot Noir. Three vineyards have vines represented here that were planted in the 1970s. The point is that this wine is not a casual dumping ground of young vine stuff from unheralded sites. This is a wonderful assemblage of several top sites in the Willamette Valley.

What was the deal with the valley-wide Frost Event and what actually happened?: In mid-April, just as buds were emerging, a multiple-days long frost event hit the valley. For as many as 5 nights in a row the temperatures dropped into the high 20s, threatening to kill or damage the new, tender shoots. In many cases, even most, that is exactly what happened. Things were really glum and it seemed that productions might hit all-time lows for vineyards and wineries across the valley. But plants and grapevines in particular are more resilient than we expect. We know less about plants than we think we do, and WAY less than we profess when we talk about them. By mid-May it was clear that many vineyards had recovered. By June it was apparent that most sites would have bumper crops! A beautiful summer that led into the warmest and driest October on record in Oregon allowed for the late flowering vintage to get hangtime and turn into beautiful, perfectly ripe fruit. This was a rollercoaster ride emotionally speaking and an intense learning event from a farming and patience standpoint! The wines in the Dundee Hills are the true winners. Freedom Hill Vineyard as a singular entity performed the greatest turn around as it recorded a record tonnage harvest. Unusual does not mean bad or poor. Unusual can be beautiful and that is the case here.

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 2022 has an excellent and nearly unique pedigree for a wine at its pricing. All of the wines in this bottling are from vineyards (12 of them!) from which we make at least one single-vineyard Pinot Noir.

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. 51% of this wine comes from those three AVAs. To show those AVAs in their pure fruit form about 55% of the volume of this wine comes from neutral barrels while only 7% of the blend is from new barrels.

As noted earlier, the 2022 vintage is an unusual (but beautiful) one where a frost event delayed the onset of bloom and flowering but did not prevent the fruit from achieving high levels of ripeness even in the face of record level harvest tonnages in some places. 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: 3,526 cases bottled (this is down from the record high 6,165 cases bottled from the 2021 vintage).

The wine was bottled with a TA of 5.5 and a pH of 3.55. Bottled with under 30 PPM free SO₂ and 75 PPM total SO₂.