

92pts
- James Suckling



Inscription

2021

WILLAMETTE VALLEY INSCRIPTION PINOT NOIR

Inscription is classic Oregon Pinot Noir from the prestigious Willamette Valley AVA. This wine beautifully showcases the unique and authentic place Oregon holds in the world of fine wine.

TASTING NOTES

A deep ruby color in the glass, the wine greets the nose with fruit aromas of raspberry, black plum and currant, with violet, orange peel, cedar, leather and forest floor. Flavors of dark fruit – black cherry, plum and currant – up front on the palate are joined by bramble and cedar with some tobacco and leather. This is a bold wine with full fruit, balanced acidity and smooth tannins. A long, lingering finish boasts big fruit and spicy, toasty oak.

WINEMAKING PROCESS

Each lot is fermented in small batches with up to 20% whole cluster inclusion. Stainless steel fermentation with daily punch downs and pump overs is followed by malolactic fermentation. For further concentration of flavor and color, 7% of juice is bled off the red wine using the Saignée method. Barrel-aged for eight months in French oak.

VINTAGE NOTES

The Pacific Northwest experienced a relatively warm winter with below average precipitation. Dry conditions did not abate until welcome rain fell in September and October, making 2021 one of the driest growing seasons on record and adding to ongoing drought worries. The growing season started out cool, followed by wide fluctuations in temperatures in April and May. The most significant weather event came in late June when a heat dome settled over the region for three days, breaking all-time temperature records by as much as 10 degrees. Fortunately, plant growth was far enough along that damage to the vines and berries was minimal. The growing season remained warm into October. Harvest produced very good to exceptional fruit quality.

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards: 14% King Estate, 8% Stagger, 7% Greiten, 7% Fern Creek, 4% Elkhorn Ridge, 4% Fitzpatrick, 4% Erratic Oaks, 3% Croft, 3% Union School, 46% Other

Alcohol: 13.5%