

# King Estate

## OREGON | WILLAMETTE VALLEY

*For almost 30 years, King Estate has championed pinot gris, highlighting the breadth of the variety in small-lot bottlings.*

Wine & Spirits  
top 100 2020

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BRENT STONE



**FOUNDED:**  
1991

**OWNERS:**  
The King family

**WINEMAKER:**  
Brent Stone

**VITICULTURIST:**  
Raymond Nuclo

**ACRES OWNED:**  
1,033  
(470 planted)

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION:**  
150,000 cases

**ESTATE GROWN:**  
60%

RESTING AT THE SOUTHERN END OF the Willamette Valley, King Estate is closer to the coast and cooler than the valley's sub-AVAs to the north. Ed King III is carrying on his father's legacy in his stewardship of the land: The estate's 470 planted acres form the largest biodynamic vineyard in the US (Demeter certified in 2016). That farming may have helped the team produce a cool-toned Domaine Pinot Noir in the relatively warm 2016 vintage. It also sustains King Estate's reputation as a leading producer of Oregon pinot gris. Over the past five years, COO/winemaker Brent Stone has expanded his site-specific bottlings, exploring the nuances of pinot gris across the Willamette Valley—some from vineyards they have worked with for decades. His team picks clones and blocks separately, generating as many as 400 active fermentations during harvest, providing a broad bench for blending each of King's cuvees. — S.L.

### 2016 Willamette Valley Domaine Pinot Noir

**(\$70, 92 points)** King Estate's Domaine Pinot Noir comes entirely from their biodynamically-farmed site in Southern Willamette Valley and often reflects the coolness from its proximity to the coast. The 2016 is beautifully aromatic, with whole-cluster scents of lilac and thyme adorning a black-cherry core of flavor.

### 2018 Willamette Valley Johnson School Vineyard Pinot Gris

**(\$26, 92 points)** From an estate vineyard in the Chehalem Mountains that's farmed biodynamically, this pinot gris is a fruit-driven counterpoint to the austere expression seen from King Estate's site at the opposite end of the Willamette Valley. There's warmth from the notes of raw almond, honeyed white flower and pink grapefruit, matched by a salinity and mineral tone that gives the wine a pearl-like radiance.

### 2018 Willamette Valley Backbone Pinot Gris

**(\$28, 91 points)** Brent Stone bases this blend on pinot gris from King's home vineyard, supplemented with smaller portions from four estate holdings throughout the Willamette Valley (including Johnson School). In 2018, those components made for a complex and well-built pinot gris with bright and creamy layers of crisp apple fruit and nougat.

