



2014 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir

Location: Ribbon Ridge is a sub-appellation of the Willamette Valley AVA that sits 22 miles southwest of Portland, 4 miles northwest of Dundee and 40 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Ribbon Ridge is contained within the larger Chehalem Mountains AVA - which is contained with the Willamette Valley AVA.

Wine history: In 1980, Harry Peterson-Nedry planted the first wine grapes on Ribbon Ridge at his Ridgecrest Vineyards. Two years later, the first commercial vineyard was established with the planting of 54 acres of Pinot noir and Chardonnay. It was Yamhill Valley Vineyards who first used these grapes to make wine in 1985. Other vineyards were soon planted in this relatively small ridge. The appellation became official in 2005.

Climate: Protected by geographical features to the north, south and west, Ribbon Ridge's grape-growing hillsides are slightly warmer and drier when compared to the adjacent valley floors. Ribbon Ridge's moderate climate is well suited for early grape growth in the spring, consistent and even ripening over the summer and a long, full maturing season in the fall.

Soils: The Ribbon Ridge region contains primarily sedimentary soils that are younger, finer and more uniform than the alluvial sedimentary and volcanic soils of neighboring regions. These moderately deep, well-drained silty-clay loam soils are part of the Willakenzie soil series and are of low fertility and ideal for growing high-quality wine grapes.

Topography: Geographically, Ribbon Ridge is a 3.5-mile long by 1.75-mile wide ridge that extends from the Chehalem Mountains. The ridge rises 683 feet from the Chehalem Valley floor, giving it an island-like appearance.

Site Characteristics: The two sets of plantings (1990-1994 and 1997-2001) continue to show enormous distinctions between one another giving us these two unique bottlings. The Estate bottling consists of 11 separate sections of the vineyard that were planted in the 1997-2001 window. For this bottling we have many sections of the vineyard to choose from and clones ranging from Pommard, Wadensvil, Dijon 114 and Dijon 777. Over the years the base of this wine has been the Pommard and it's powerful, rich and oft times gamey signature. However, the block with the most potential has always been the 1997 planting of Wadensvil. While it has taken fifteen years for that block to begin realizing its enormous potential the first sign of it is in this bottling. Nearly 40% of the wine is from Wadensvil Clone while the rest is made up of nearly equal parts Pommard and Dijon 114. While this shift does not inexorably change the bottling there is a bending toward some more red-toned fruit even while this wine remains darker, earthier and more structured than most of our other wines.

Wine Making and Notes: Ribbon Ridge can produce wines of incredible delicacy and wines of enormous power. Our Estate Vineyard bottling has always fallen into the latter category. The duress the plants are under in the thin marine soils' upper layers causes the fruit to be relatively low in yields and smaller on a per cluster basis. This makes for darker and more naturally more structured wines. Even in a higher yielding, warmer (and therefore fruit-driven) year this bottling still exhibits broodingly dark fruit intertwined with loamy, earthy characteristics and finishes with gripping tannins that give the wine form. This is Pinot Noir for those with darker souls and, perhaps, some devious intentions. Don't bring this bottle home to your mama because she is going to have a talk with you later.

Production: 1,264 cases bottled.