

Child's Play Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2021

Selected by: MTW Tasting Panel



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2021
GRAPE Pinot Noir
GEOGRAPHY Not Europe
COUNTRY USA
LARGER REGION Oregon
SMALLER REGION Willamette Valley

Rationale

Oregon's Willamette Valley – located in the Pacific Northwest of the USA – is one of the world's relatively youngest and most promising wine regions. Unheard of 50 years ago, her Pinot Noirs now rank among the very finest American wines. The best examples are remarkably similar to their equivalents from Burgundy – a comparison that is no doubt crucial to their continued success. A classic Oregon Pinot has a deep red cherry color with aromas of black cherries, stewed strawberries, and earthy notes of forest floor, wild mushrooms, and the occasional fresh herbs.

Willamette Valley became an AVA in 1984. Celebrating the diversity of terroir within the Valley, in 2002, a group of producers banded together to mark out and petition for the creation of six new AVAs within the Willamette Valley. As a result, the Dundee Hills, McMinnville, Eola-Amity Hills, Yamhill-Carlton District, Chehalem Mountains, and Ribbon Ridge sub-AVAs were established between 2004 and 2006, and the Van Duzer Corridor was granted official status in late-2018. Pinots here are rich, complex wines with bright-red fruits, provocative spice, defined minerality, and balanced tannins.

Even though Tony Rynders, the owner/winemaker at Tendril Wine Cellars, calls his second label "Child's Play," the thought and effort that goes into making this phenomenal Pinot Noir is far from simple. Tony, the same talented and accomplished winemaker that put Domaine Serene on the map, launched his own project in 2010 with the Tendril label, a lineup of incredible Pinots and Chardonnays from select sites in the Willamette Valley that he knows from long experience in the region.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Day Bright
CLARITY Clear
COLOR DEPTH Light
COLOR Ruby
RIM VARIATION Ruby
Stained Tears: None

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry
ACID Med+
ALCOHOL Med+
TANNIN Medium
TEXTURE Round / Smooth
FINISH Med+
COMPLEXITY Med+

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Cranberry • Pomegranate • Red Plum • Red Raspberry • Red / Sour Cherry
Condition: Fresh, Ripe

BLACK FRUIT Black Raspberry • Black Cherry • Blackberry • Black Plum *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*

CITRUS FRUIT Orange *Condition: Fresh Part: Peel / Zest*

FLORAL Jasmine • Rose *Condition: Fresh*

OTHER VEGETABLE Tomatoes / Sun-Dried • Ginger / Root • Peppers (Red/Yellow) • Tomato Leaf

HERBAL Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Basil • Sage

OTHER SPICES Black Pepper • Licorice (Red) • Chinese Five Spice

ORGANIC EARTH Turned Dirt / Potting Soil

OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Medium*

OAK INFLUENCE Cardamom • Cedar / Cigar Box • Cinnamon • Sandalwood • Toast

OXIDATION/NUTTINESS Almond / Marzipan • Pistachio

PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES Partial / Whole Cluster