

FALL BULLETIN 2022

The Eyrie Vineyards



The 2022 Vintage

MOTHER NATURE HAS endless capacity to surprise, delight, and dismay. In 2022 we found new levels of awe for our estate, our vines, our people, and their incredible resilience.

This year's weather was marked by major swings between heat and cold, wet and dry.

A dry winter period slid into a warm early spring, with daytime temps into the high 70s. But in mid-April, disaster struck. The clear skies of dawn brought us temps more suited to January. The vines, with their tender buds now open and vulnerable to damage, got badly scorched. At first the damage was difficult to see, but within a few days the buds began to feel spongy, then blacken and shrivel. My initial estimates placed our losses at 70%.

What unfolded in the next 6 weeks truly surprised us all. We did not know how truly cunning grapevines can be.

Hiding under the dead first and second buds was an even more tenacious third bud. The emergency spares

“We did not know how truly cunning the vines could be!”

rocketed out of the canes in late May. Bloom conditions were perfect – every flower had ideal conditions to ripen into a berry. By July it was clear that my initial prediction was too gloomy.

This miraculous recovery was due in part to one of the wettest early summers in memory. The valley stayed lush well into July. Then another abrupt swing occurred, from wet to dry: July, August, and September got only 10% of their normal precipitation, and temperatures warmed to 110% of normal. Fortunately the rains had fully charged our volcanic soils with water and the vines thrived.

Overall, the harvest was nicely paced and relatively relaxed in moderate, dry weather. We started the pick in earnest at The Eyrie on October 7th and finished at Daphne on the 20th, just in time for the month's first rain on the 21st.

Our long-time picking and production crew was aided this year by some fresh faces. This year Niklas Hofstätter

Foradori, who had just finished a harvest at his family estate Weingut J. Hofstätter in Italy, and my daughter Margo joined us. Both Niklas and Margo used their time here to also make their own cuvees of wine. Hopefully keeping an eye on their barrels in the cellar will have them both coming back - we really loved having them here and their help was invaluable.

First impressions of the 2022 wines offer bright fruit, crunchy acidity, and good concentration. Given the pendulum swings of the spring and summer, the calm confidence of this year's wines can best be attributed to the resourcefulness of both the vines and our wonderful crew. I offer both my deepest gratitude.

Jason Lett

JASON LETT Winemaker

THE SELECTIONS



NEW DROPS

What's new? New festive white wines and 2019 single vineyard Pinot noirs are wine club exclusives... for now. We also include the long awaited release of our 2017 South Block Reserve.

Every Eyrie bottle comes packed with superlatives. We grow every berry, organically. We don't irrigate (and our water table thanks you.) Most of the vines are "franc de pied" (own-rooted, in English) which makes them rare in the world of wine. We don't till the soil, which means we are capturing carbon naturally.

And, we take care of our people. We don't hire labor contractors. We employ our team year-round. Every full-time person gets full benefits regardless of role, because every person helps make the wine.

It's only fair.

SPARK

A Burst of Bubbles

This casual sparkler is crisp and fresh. Pinot noir, Pinot blanc, Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay, and Trousseau combine to create a burst of wild strawberry. Pear and citrus balance on the palate, with blood orange bringing up the finish. Rich texture, yet bone dry.

2021 CHASSELAS DORÉ

Fall Sunshine

Crisp, tropical and savory, it is light on its feet while having a surprising amount of structure and body for a wine with just under 12% alcohol. A true rarity and bottled in just two rows at our Sisters Vineyard, this bottling is one of the only Chasselas to be found outside of Switzerland.

2021 PINOT GRIS THE EYRIE

Liquid Manifesto

Our Pinot gris has all ability of Pinot noir to reflect nuances of site, craft and vine age - this wine is our statement of proof. We pay special attention to these old gris vines, the first planted in the New World. In the winery a naturalistic approach results in a direct expression from vine to glass.

2019 PINOT NOIR SISTERS

Family Affair

This site was originally named after the three Pinot sisters: noir, blanc and gris. Today these are joined by other family members from Burgundy, the Jura and Switzerland. A juicy, joyful interpretation of Pinot noir, this is a terrific introduction to our single vineyard Pinots.

2019 PINOT NOIR THE EYRIE

Emblematic

The Eyrie is our founding vineyard and site of the oldest vines in the Willamette Valley planted in 1965. This wine has a rich and exuberant nose with dark fruit and plenty of earth. Brooding flavors marry with bright acidity - best of both worlds!

2017 PINOT NOIR SOUTH BLOCK

Worth the Wait

Planted in 1968, the South Block occupies a corner of the first vines planted at The Eyrie Vineyard, a mere 10 rows. As Jason's father David Lett discovered, these ten rows came to express a magical spot in the Dundee Hills. The 2017 release is endlessly graceful and aromatic, a true inheritor of the emblematic South Block style.