



2018 RIDGECREST CLUB SELECT PINOT NOIR

ABOUT THE VINEYARDS

The ocean sedimentary soils found here are noticeably different from those of the neighboring Yamhill-Carlton, Chehalem Mountains or Dundee Hills AVAs. They have a geographic time line and chemistry all their own. We dry farm here – a marked choice we made to encourage robust vines and deep root systems. Dry farming allows fruit to develop a complexity akin to that found in music – with volume being determined by vintage, an artful mix of bass and treble added on the cellar track, and the deep-down embrace of rock foundations. Of the 40 planted acres that constitute Ridgecrest Vineyards, Pinot Noir is the mainstay.

VINTAGE NOTES

We kind of cruised into the 2018 harvest, after an early bud break and bloom, a comfortably warm spring, and those precious, cool, summer evenings that make our eyes light up. The stellar prospect of the vintage was heightened by a “cool” final ripening compared to the previous five. Perfectly ripe, but not overly so. Zero disease pressure, thanks to ridge-top breezes and the absence of rain. Rich flavors with an edge of restraint, combined with the lift of gentle acidity. Textbook perfect from our vantage, and worthy of all the hype.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Your first Club Select Pinot Noir is worthy of the super small-lot designation, makes us proud each time we taste it, and reflects our appreciation and love for each one of our club members. Under 50 cases were made from our single favorite fermentation of 2018, this is all OG 1982-planted Pommard Pinot Noir from the very first vines ever grown on Ribbon Ridge. It has a classic “Ribbon Ridge” nose, with dusty ripe blackberry, tarragon, cigar box, lilac and dark cocoa all intermingling. The palate reminds us why this is the most important piece of land in the world to us; the tannins are youthful yet refined, and there is strength and balance yet also finesse in the structure, with the promise of long ageability. The acid is present enough to add freshness, but also integrated enough to just make it juicy on the finish. 30% whole cluster during the fermentation adds the right amount of spice to both the nose and palate to complement the earthy spice that naturally accompanies the site's sedimentary soils. We hope you enjoy this wine now, and also leave some for your future self to remark over.

TECHNICAL DATA

AbV - 14.9 % | TA - 6.3 g/L | pH - 3.26

COOPERAGE: 10 months - 50% New; 50% 1-yr

French Oak + 7 months Neutral | 42 CASES

RELEASE - April 2020 | DRINK - NOW - 2036





A dad, a daughter, and a hill.



Harry Peterson-Nedry | Founder

When we first set foot on Ribbon Ridge nearly 40 years ago, we knew it was something special. There was an indefinable magic to the place, in the low-slung, rolling hills that rise and fall like the breath of a slumbering child. It was undeniably alive, and bursting with potential.

In 1980 folks thought we were just plain nuts to plant wine grapes on that chilly rise located on the western edge of the Willamette Valley. The common thought at the time was that the site was situated too far west for grapes - too windy, too foggy, too cool.

We naively followed our gut, planting the first vineyard on what would one day become one of the premier wine appellations in Oregon, the Ribbon Ridge AVA. Ridgecrest Vineyards did not disappoint. Early barrel samples were encouraging. We studied it, continued to plant, and dug deeply.

After 34 harvests at Chehalem and 17 years crafting our cellar-worthy RR wines, we know these vineyards – the ins and outs, strengths, and peculiarities of each and every block. We've done our homework.

Now, it's recess. We're ready to come out and play.*

Our new Ridgecrest label allows us to do just that – to experiment with all of those blocks, lots, and barrels that beg our attention every harvest – the ones we are loathe to blend with others, because they are just so damned intriguing. Pinot Noir will be the mainstay of the Ridgecrest label, with supporting roles played by Gamay Noir, Grüner Veltliner, Pinot Gris and Riesling.



Wynne Peterson-Nedry | Winemaker/Proprietor



Ridgecrest Vineyards, Ribbon Ridge AVA,
Willamette Valley, Oregon

Harry Peterson-Nedry

Wynne Peterson-Nedry



*Follow our progress from barrel to bottle,
from yurt to winery at ridgecrestwines.com.*

*as much as two nerdy chemists have the capacity to do.