# 2023 RIDGECREST ESTATE GAMAY NOIR
## RIDGECREST VINEYARDS | RIBBON RIDGE AVA
## WILLAMETTE VALLEY | OREGON

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### TECHNICAL DATA

**AbV** - 13.1% | **TA** - 6.2 g/L | **pH** - 3.5

**AGING** - 10 months 100% neutral French oak | 25% whole cluster

**VINES** - 16% old vine circa 1985, 84% young vine planted 2019

**PRODUCTION** - 183 cases | **SRP -** $36

**RELEASE** - April 2025 | **ENJOY** - Now-2040 & beyond

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Ridgecrest Vineyards is dry-farmed sustainably according to LIVE (Low Input Viticulture & Enology) standards.
Established - 1980 | Planted - 1982 - current
Elevation - 480 - 690ft | Acreage - 120 total | 38 planted

LIVE CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE

Of those 41 planted acres, only 2.5 are Gamay Noir, including 1 acre planted in 2019 and 1.5 acres of own-rooted vines planted in 1985, the oldest in the Willamette Valley.

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The glass shows a flashy, gem-like deep purple-to ruby-garnet hue, and the first approach exudes a spicy, wild nose of graphite, cigar box, violet, and cherry cola. The palate is rich and textured, with chewy, dusty tannins and a balanced structure. Flavors of Bing cherry, raspberry, pomegranate seed, and cherry syrup intertwine with notes of toasted brown bread, tree bark, and pine straw. Theres a ferrous and savory aspect which adds depth, and wildness, while bright acidity provides structure, and a lengthy tension that softens over time. This bright red begs for a burger or pizza, or a slight chill and some pool-time. – *Wynne*

## VINTAGE NOTES

**2023: Return to Normal: Average Becomes winning at dinner**

We've had several unusual vintages recently, e.g., 2022 (hard freeze), 2021 (hot, hot hot) and 2020 (wildfire smoke). 2023 pleasantly showed us a recent, relative normalcy, albeit warm.

Only two harvests in the last ten have begun earlier, 2023 starting September 11, a full 30 days earlier than our average the first 15 vintages this century.

Vineyard vigor, growth and ripening were strong in this Summer, with only 2015 having more over-80F days and only 2019 having more rainfall. Cropload yields were slightly smaller by 15% than the all-varietal 2.52 ton-per-acre 5-year average, with disease pressure very low except for a couple late-held varieties and general quality very good to exceptional—and that we'd like to see become normal. - *Harry*

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