

MINERAL SPRINGS RANCH 2012 PINOT NOIR

THE VINEYARD. Mineral Springs Ranch is a 240-acre parcel of woodland and grazing land dotted with ancient Oregon white oak savannas. The entire property is operated as a certified sustainable farm, home to 500 sheep and a 30-acre planting of Pinot Noir that occupies the ridge top and adjacent slopes at an elevation of 400 feet. These vines are rooted in ancient sedimentary soils derived from fractured marine sandstone.

The combined effect of superb exposure, elevation, excellent drainage and the cool north-western Oregon climate create the potential for consistently great wines. There is no doubt that experienced and dedicated farming, along with careful craftsmanship contribute to the result, but from its very first vintage this vineyard has expressed its own singular voice. The wines are compelling expressions of a place destined to be recognized as one of the great sites for new world Pinot Noir.

APPELLATION

Yamhill-Carlton, L.I.V.E. Certified Vineyard & Winery

ELEVAGE

Harvested October 6-8, 2012

45% new French oak barrels for 12 months

30% whole cluster fermentation

30 days extended maceration

CELLARING

Decant to enjoy now or hold through 2025

PRODUCTION

1,743 cases

ALCOHOL

13.8%

VINTAGE NOTE. 2012 will go down as one of the finest vintages in the Willamette Valley history. After two previous vintages of some of the coolest temperatures on record, Mother Nature provided us with minimal rainfall, plenty of sunshine, warm and consistent temperatures throughout the day and perfectly cool nights. This optimal combination left us with fruit being evenly ripened and balanced, with high acidity, and all around outstanding quality.

TASTING NOTE. An engaging, seductive nose suggests black cherry, Bing cherry, dried cranberry, spice and rose petals, with a hint of anise. Entry on the palate is silky for a wine that quickly displays an uncommon level of generosity – it fairly explodes on the mid palate, with noteworthy extract. The anise notes suggested in its aromatics expand to include fennel and red licorice, quite exotic. Lots of spice box notes and some white pepper appear, with scorched earth, dried beef and dark roasted coffee notes. The wine finishes with real intensity, revealing slate and mineral tones, on a frame that is both lush and structured, without being heavy or sacrificing balance. This is a rich wine in the historical “MSR” lineage, with real power, but is a pure Pinot Noir beauty in the end.

95 points, Wine Spectator

“Vibrant and multilayered, offering black cherry, red plum, saffras and dead leaf flavors on a long and silky frame. The gorgeous flavors float through the finish. Drink now through 2022.” H.S.

