

2006 Pinot Noir Five Mountain



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 28 years
Yield: 2.2 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 25.5 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.75
Bottled: September 2007
6 Bottle Cases
Produced: 980

Five Mountain Vineyard was purchased by Elk Cove Vineyards in 2005 after leasing the site for several years. Previously only a component of our Willamette Valley blend, after taking full control of the vineyard we have found certain lots worthy of Single Vineyard status. This historic vineyard was planted in 1978 by the Ponzi family, the original 4.2 acres of old vines are comprised of Pommard clone and the entire vineyard is set on a steep southeast slope in the Chehalem Mountains AVA, overlooking “five mountains” in the Cascade Range most widely seen from the Willamette Valley. This vineyard was an important element to the early Ponzi Reserve Pinots and has also been a Single Vineyard selection from a number of premier Oregon wineries over the years. This site is sustainably farmed by Elk Cove Vineyards and now comprises a total of 30 acres including the original old vine Pinot Noir, Dijon Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Muscat. We are excited to include this Vineyard in our family of Single Vineyard wines!

Vintage 2006 certainly has everyone offering up grand descriptions! “Everything ripened beautifully.” “This is a rarity.” “A warm, fully ripe vintage.” Fruit set was ideal with a mild Spring. Months that followed were warm and dry, with short-lived heat spikes and a few intermittent cooling rains in the fall, advancing fruit ripeness. Feelings abound in the valley that the 2006 vintage seems to be a combination of the 1999’s depth and the ripeness of 2003 (the only vintage warmer than 2006), but with better flavors and natural balance. The Pinot Noirs specifically seem to be very true to form with velvety tannins and a sexiness evocative of Pinot’s feminine side. Put this with softer, darker blue fruits that are more generous and it’s the makings of exceptional wines! In general, this vintage had us searching for negatives, finding only the six days of over 86 degrees in early harvest to fret over. But the results seem to be close to perfect!

Reviews

91 Pts. ~ *Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar* ~ May/June, 2008

“Alluring bouquet of black raspberry, kirsch, allspice, incense, and cinnamon. The palate offers deep, sweet red and dark berry flavors, supple texture and fine-grained tannins that add gentle grip. Finishes energetic and spicy, with a strong note of sweet red berries. Seductive and delicious now.”

90 Pts. ~ *Wine Spectator* ~ April 23, 2008

“Bright and lively. A crisp-textured style that emphasizes raspberry and warm-rain-on-slate minerality in equal measure, finishing with snap. Best from 2009 through 2013.”

Recommended! ~ *Wine Press Northwest* ~ Spring 2008

“This is a darker-toned red with aromas and flavors of black truffles, mushrooms, plums and chocolate-covered cherries.”