



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 5-20 years
Yield: 2.0 tons/acre average
Harvest Sugars: 25.6 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 3.68
Bottled: September 2007
6 Bottle Cases Produced: 360

2006 Pinot Noir Reserve

~30th Vintage Cuvee~

The finest Pinot Noirs ever produced at Elk Cove Vineyards may fall under our designation of Reserve. This label is held in the highest regard at Elk Cove and only used when a truly unique vintage and barrel blend warrant it! And how fitting that such conditions existed in 2006 ~ our 30th Anniversary Vintage! Truly making this a unique and rare bottling. Blended from a select few vineyards, this nine-barrel lot was crafted to highlight the opulence coming from this spectacular vintage. This wine has perfumed aromatics that accentuate the deep garnet color, which only intensifies on the palate with subtle undertones of cocoa powder and classic black cherry fruit. The finish is long and balanced with ample texture for aging. Only the finest French cooperage was used on this blend, consisting of 80% new oak and all 3-year air-dried, Burgundian coopered Allier barrels.

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

93 Pts. ~ Wine Spectator ~ August, 2008

"Rich, ripe, and expressive, offering a mouthful of dark plum, golden raspberry and even a hint of apricot as the finish comes together and lingers against refined tannins. This is beautifully focused with depth and distinctiveness."— H. S.

93 Pts. ~ Wine Enthusiast ~ November 15, 2008

92 Pts. ~ Robert Parker Wine Advocate ~ November 2008

"The 2006 Reserve is Elk Cove's show stopper...Medium/dark ruby colored, the aromas are an amalgam of red and black fruits, earth notes, and mineral. On the palate the wine is seamless but structured, an elegant effort with no hard edges. The flavors are concentrated and the wine has excellent persistence."

91 Pts. ~ Wine & Spirits ~ December 2008