

R·STUART & C^o

..... WINERY

2018 BIG FIRE PINOT NOIR

Willamette Valley, Oregon

TASTING NOTES:

COLOR – pale, medium ruby

AROMAS – dark cherry - round and lush, tomato leaf, amaro, herbaceous, fennel

FLAVORS – cherry, black tea, amaro, greenhouse aromas, forest floor

STRUCTURE – subtle tannins with medium weight. Round palate with soft acid

FOOD PAIRING: Roasted Chicken with Herbs de Provence, Salmon with Anchovy Garlic Butter

VINTAGE: Oregon weathered a lot during a hot, dry summer in 2018 and even drifting smoke from wildfires in other regions. Budbreak and bloom went off without a hitch. At the beginning of May, it was unusually sunny and there was little to no rain during the summer. By mid-September, the vines were weary from too much sun and not enough water. Growers and winemakers started to worry, but in R. Stuart fashion, we knew the benefit to waiting. Low and behold, a half and inch of rain arrived, reviving stressed vines. What followed was about two weeks of cool nights and warm days. While the summer was hot and dry, timely rains and cooler temperatures in the early fall lead to lovely fruit and potentially great wines.

VINEYARDS: 22.3% Daffodil Hill Vineyard (*Eola-Amity AVA*), 50.5% Courting Hill Vineyard (*Willamette Valley AVA*), 15.8% Tukwilla Vineyard (*Dundee Hills AVA*), 9.8% Balanza Vineyard (*Dundee Hills AVA*), 1.6% Riverside Vineyard (*McMinnville AVA*)

WINEMAKING: We destemmed this fruit into one-ton fermenters in Mid-October 2018. We then inoculated with our proprietary concoction of cultivated yeast and fermented the wine to approximately 5 brix. Then it was delestaged (*a kind of rach and return that softens tannins*) and eventually pressed to tank 7 days later. We let this settle for 4 days, inoculated for malolactic fermentation and then racked the wine into 5-year-old neutral French oak barrels. We made the final vineyard blend 13 months later. It was racked from barrels back to barrels three times before bottling.



TECH SPECS:

Alc: 13.1%, TA: 5.3,
pH: 3.72, RS: <0.2%

COMPOSITION:

100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARD SOURCES:

Daffodil Hill, Balanza,
Tukwilla, Riverside,
Courting Hill

AVA: Willamette Valley

CASES PRODUCED: 6,950

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