



2021 Louise Vineyard Pinot Noir



Established in 1993, Louise Vineyard is named for Cristom Winegrower and Owner Tom Gerrie’s great-grandmother. Planted to the lowest slopes of the Cristom estate, Louise Vineyard is one of the most geologically complex sites on the farm. A microcosm of the diversity of soils in the Eola-Amity Hills, Louise is predominantly planted over a range of volcanic soils and is the only vineyard site on the estate that is also influenced by Missoula Flood Silts further contributing to the intensity and complexity of fruit. Protected by a small forest to the west and south, Louise is more sheltered from the cold Pacific Ocean winds than the other estate vineyards, helping to soften the focused acidity in the wines. Collectively the vines stitched into the Louise Vineyard hillside are now the oldest at Cristom – helping to bring balance, grace and a greater sense of place to this single vineyard wine. As of 2023, the vines in Louise range from 26 to 30 years old. True to our commitment to craft wines from distinguished sites in the Eola Hills, Louise is now 12.3 acres of Pinot Noir and just over a ½ acre of Chardonnay.



WINEMAKING

46% whole cluster
 100% hand-harvested and hand-sorted fruit
 100% native yeast fermentations
 1-3 punch downs daily with occasional pump-over
 1.5 - 7 ton open-top fermenters
 Pressed to tank, settled over-night and then moved to barrel
 Full malolactic fermentation in barrel
 18 months on its lees
 38% new French oak barrels
 Unfined & Unfiltered
 ALC 13.5% TA 5.4 g/L pH 3.52
 ESTATE BOTTLED March 17, 2023
 PRODUCTION 792 cases

VINEYARD SOURCE

100% Louise Vineyard
 ACRES 18.19 (7.36 hectares)
 ELEVATION 290 feet to 440 feet (88 m to 134 m)
 SOILS Columbia River Basalts, including: Jory, Nekia, Ritner and Witzel; Marine Sediments: Helmick and Wellsdale; Missoula Flood silts including: Willamette and Woodburn soils
 ASPECT east; southeast
 ESTABLISHED 1993
 VARIETAL Pinot Noir; Chardonnay; Pinot Gris; Syrah; Viognier
 CLONES Pinot Noir: Pommard and Dijon clones 113, 114, 115, 777; Chardonnay 95
 FIRST VINTAGE 1996

Vintage Notes The 2021 vintage may come to be defined by the near storybook ending to the growing season that allowed the vines to preserve fresh fruit characters in concentrated clusters and achieve greater balance in the wines in one of the driest years in company history. Intermittent rains during a cool bloom period led to extremely small berries and small clusters that are concentrated in flavor and structure; often defining characteristics of a quality year. There were extreme heat spikes in 2021, but thoughtful vineyard practices preserved the small, fragile berries and the fruit looked pristine coming to the winery. The cooler than average weather in August and September helped the growing season to finish with 2,475 growing degree days (*GDD*), which is near our exact average heat accumulation since 1992. Though it was an unusually low water year, we did have around 1.5" of rain fall in the middle of vintage which helped young vines and even older vines planted in our shallowest volcanic soils to gain more hang time. In the fermenters, native fermentations kicked off with vigor and produced energetic wines notable for their effusive fruity esters. Overall, the 2021 vintage may reveal itself to be one of the greats of the last ten years.



CRISTOM
 VINEYARDS

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