



2009 SPIRITHOUSE PINOT NOIR

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The first clue to the depth of this wine is the striking garnet hue. This is a very seductive Pinot Noir wrapped in an aromatic robe of clove and allspice notes draped with juicy red raspberry and kirsch with nuances of incense cedar and roasted wild game. On the palate, the 2009 Spirithouse Pinot exudes class with an inviting structure of satiny tannins and a delicate balance of morello cherry driven fruit lifted by clean acidity and supported by just enough oak structure. This is a wine that will draw you in with its grace, elegance, and power.

Winemaker's Production Notes

2009 was all about farming to balance Mother Nature's surprises. Argyle's farming culture got the crop level right on. We stripped leaves after the burning sun of August and in time for the Labor Day rains. We also believed September's drying, east wind forecast and put a security of water onto the vines to help them ride out the drying, late season heat with a maximum of ripening—which is the name of the game here in the Willamette Valley. Picking was unusually "segmented" this year. Usually we can say that every 200' rise in elevation can mean 10 days difference in ripening and thus picking. But, in 2009 Argyle picked high and low elevation fruit at the same time! We picked all the sparkling fruit, then rested for a couple of days, then all the Chardonnay for still wine, rested another few days then all the red came in. The resulting wines are gorgeous, perky, and sexy. I don't know that I have seen a more sensuous expression of flavor and aromas in my 23 years of Willamette Valley winemaking.

Wine Production Stats

Varietal: 100% Oregon Pinot Noir
 Vineyards: Knudsen
 AVA: Dundee Hills
 Alcohol: 14.5%
 Cases Produced: 630 cases
 Date Bottled: March 2011
 Winemakers: Rollin Soles and Andrew Davis