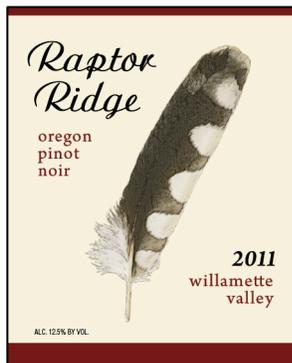




Raptor Ridge



2011 PINOT NOIR Willamette Valley

Bottled Sept 2012
12.5% Alcohol
Released Oct 2012
Fewer than 2233 cases

90 Points
The Tasting Panel
May 2013

89 Points
Wine Spectator
Feb 28, 2013

In the Vineyard

We in Oregon like to remind the world that we do have vintages. Some vintages, from the perspective of the winergrower, are more hair-raising than others. 2011 followed in the footsteps of 2010, with a late bloom as a harbinger of a late harvest. Though the wines were similar in structure to the light, bright red-fruit flavors of the 2010, having 210 more degree days than 2010 leant a certain deepness to the flavors with ripe, but pronounced tannins. The wines are pleasant now, but showing more promise every day with a little more aging.

The wines for our 2011 Willamette cuvée were harvested from several vineyard sources between October 18 and November 2. This blend of numerous vineyards from throughout the Willamette Valley includes Gran Moraine (23%), Beran (18%), our Tuscowallame Estate (14%), Arbre Vert (12%), Bellevue Cross (8%), Black Hole (7%), Goodrich (7%), Shea (6%), and Meredith Mitchell (5%) Vineyards. This particularly cool year resulted in an exciting and "zippy" average grape chemistry: 20.6 Brix, pH 3.37, TA 7.5

At the Winery

To work best with fruit from various vineyards, we employed a diverse yeast program to aid in fermentation (yeast strains include 71B, WS, Native, BM 45). On average, this fruit was cold soaked for about 6.8 days to provide extraction without bitterness. All lots were fermented for about 19 days before going to barrel. This wine saw about nine months in oak by coopers ranging from Cadus, Billon, Ermitage, Deferrari, Mercury, and Remond. To allow for earlier approachability, however, the oak exposure was a modest 8% new oak (intensity).

At the Table

In two words, *fresh* and *bright*. We are thrilled with the agility and silkiness of this wine, with a touch of structure that gives it a pleasing body. On the nose, fresh cherries and bramble fruit dominate, with a little candied cranberry, pomegranate and orange zest. On the palate, red and black cherries come together with unique tropical fruit notes that give this wine an edge. A moderate acidity, coupled with elegant and silky tannins, delivers a serious bang for your buck.