

## BETHEL HEIGHTS

### ESTATE PINOT NOIR

This wine blends fruit from all the different sections of our Bethel Heights, Justice, and Lewman estate vineyards. It truly encompasses the entire breadth of expression at our estate, from the youthful exuberance of our youngest vines planted in 2002 to the brooding, earthy complexity of our old own-rooted vines that have been knitting themselves into our landscape for forty years.

### THE 2021 VINTAGE

Throughout the Willamette Valley, 2021 is considered an outstanding vintage. It was generous in terms of yields, ripeness, and quality and health of the fruit. Overall, the growing season was earlier than average. Harvest started on Sept 14 and finished on October 12. There were a couple of extreme heat events early in the summer that were devastating to some crops in the Valley, but in the vineyards the timing was just right to scour the powdery mildew out of the vineyard without harming the fruit, which had not yet begun to soften. August was also very hot, but temperatures cooled significantly in September, and rain showers in September and early October allowed us to take advantage of an extended ripening period for enhanced flavor development.

#### 93 WINE SPECTATOR

Sleek and handsomely structured, with expressive raspberry and red plum flavors laced with black tea, forest floor and hints of mineral, building tension toward medium-grained tannins.



### 2021 PINOT NOIR • ESTATE

*LIVE Certified*

Harvest dates: September 14 – October 12, 2021

Grapes at harvest: Brix 22.5-23.7, pH 3.15-3.35, TA 5.5-6.4 g/L

Finished wine: Alcohol 13.2%, pH 3.56, TA 5.7 g/L

Barrel aged 8 months in French oak, 24% new barrels

Cases produced: 5262

Bottled unfinned on June 21, 2022

**VINIFICATION:** Harvesting grapes from our three vineyards spanned nearly a whole month, so there is no real clear blueprint to describe how we approached the vintage. Clear skies in September darkened in October with several rain events to navigate, so our approach shifted with the weather. Generally speaking, we destemmed all of the fruit into various fermentation vessels, approached cap management on a case by case basis, pressed at dryness and aged in barrel for 8 months.

**WINEMAKER NOTES:** The Pinot Noir Estate is always the best place to start when evaluating our success or shortcoming in any given vintage. It incorporates nearly all our estate vineyard in various amounts, and as such provides an honest evaluation of the year. The 2021 Estate Pinot Noir reflects the multifaceted nature of the vintage: the abundance of fruit from our early picks under sunny skies and the earthen complexity we found from our older vines picked in cooler October weather. Blending the Estate is often our most difficult task because it is our largest bottling each vintage, and thus includes both our successes and shortcomings. Thanks to diligent farming from our vineyard team, attention to detail, and a fantastic winemaking team for harvest, the 2021 Estate Pinot Noir contains only successes.