

PONZI VINEYARDS

Founded in 1970, Ponzi Vineyards was instrumental in putting Willamette Valley on the map as a world-class wine region. Today, the winery continues to set the standard in Oregon Pinot noir and Chardonnay, elevating the region's reputation as a premier wine country destination.



Pinot Noir Reserve 2017

Willamette Valley, Oregon

ESTATE

In the late 1960s Dick and Nancy Ponzi uprooted their family to pursue a dream of producing world class Pinot Noir. After research trips to Burgundy and an extensive search, they purchased 20 acres on a small farm just southwest of Portland, Oregon. They believed the climate, soils and vineyard site meet every need of noble cool-climate grape varieties. The first 4 barrels of wine produced in 1974. At the time, there are 5 bonded wineries in Oregon with 35 acres in production. Ponzi has since become internationally acclaimed for its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Today winemaker Luisa Ponzi continues her work of the last 30 years with the family of Champagne Bollinger, which acquired Ponzi Vineyards in 2021. The estate's drive to create distinctly pure Pinot Noir, in a distinctly Oregon manner, has never been stronger.

WINE

Beginning with the 2017 vintage, Ponzi's Pinot Noir Reserve comes exclusively from estate fruit, including from some of Oregon's oldest vines. Bright red fruit character in their youth gave way to dark berry and brambly spice as the vines reached into the volcanic layers. The Pinot Noir Reserve's brooding dark fruit and exotic spice has rendered it one of the ultimate examples of artisanal, site-expressive Pinot Noir in the United States today, year after year epitomizing a character of restrained power.

VINEYARD

As a true Reserve, or barrel select, it is a blend of top barrels from Ponzi's Aurora, Abetina, Madrona and Avellana Vineyards, all of which are LIVE Certified Sustainable. Higher elevation sites and younger vineyards contribute bright red fruit and floral character while the lower elevation sites and older vineyards bring darker fruit and brambly spice character, all seamlessly knit together by fine, chalky tannin.

WINEMAKING

Harvest: Sept-Oct 2017

Variety: 100% Pinot Noir

Fermentation: in small lots, with daily punch-downs, 40% whole cluster

Aging: 20 months, 30% new French oak, 10 months in bottle

Alcohol: 14.2%

VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage was a welcome throwback to more classic vintages after five consecutive warm years. The winter was unusually cold, which extended into a cool spring. Fortunately, the Willamette Valley was spared any effect from the smoke and may have even benefited from some protection from sunburn in the hottest part of the summer. Reminiscent of recent 2010 and 2011 vintages, 2017 will be one to enjoy immediately and for the long term.

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"Attractive ripe and pure red cherry fruit that is nicely framed in spice, conifer-forest and sweet-earth elements. The palate has a bold heart of concentrated red-cherry flavor and delivers a bold, youthful and succulent finish. Impressive." - J.S., 6/2021

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Wine Enthusiast

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