

2005 Bishop Creek Cellars Valois Reserve Pinot Noir North Willamette Valley, Oregon

"What do red (wine), hype, and blue (blood) have in common? More than a quip or a quote, this wine cries out for a story. Read about our Valois Reserve's regal heritage here:

http://www.urbanwineworks.com/bishopcreek/valois_heritage.html"

-Your humble servants at Bishop Creek



Tasting Notes

This marks the debut of a very special wine, the Valois Reserve (pronounced val-wah). This is a blend of the 5 very best barrels in the cellar and represents the pinnacle of Pinot Noir expression from the Bishop Creek Vineyard in 2005. A dense wine, the Valois will not be revealing all it has to offer for at least another year or two, but if you cannot resist, open it and decant the wine before you drink it. The nose shows dark brooding fruit over dense earth notes and subtle oak spice. While the aromatics are not explosive yet, there is no mistaking the concentration. The palate layers dark fruits of black cherry and blackberry, exotic spices, red earth, loads of texture, and a very firm tannic structure. This rich, dense wine will slowly evolve into a stunning beauty akin to Clint Eastwood in his spaghetti western days, but with performances in Bird and Million Dollar Baby still to come.

Winemaking Notes

In order to highlight complexity, a number of winemaking changes were instituted in 2005. We picked each section of the vineyard separately and each lot was fermented individually in small 1.25 ton fermenters. Naturally occurring cold soaks of up to 8 days ensured good concentration and all ferments used indigenous yeasts. Caps were punched down twice daily for the majority of fermentation, slowing to once daily as the wines approached dryness. Racked to primarily neutral barrels, and

only about 15% new barrels, the wines went through malolactic fermentation, and rested undisturbed until being racked just once more prior to bottling in early September, eleven months later.

Bishop Creek Vineyard

<i>Location:</i>	2 miles north of the town of Yamhill, in North Willamette Valley, Yamhill County, Oregon.
<i>Acreage:</i>	15 of 66 acres currently planted: 12 of Pinot noir, 3 of Pinot gris, and a small new block of Pinot blanc. Tight spacing, mostly 5'x5'.
<i>Year Planted:</i>	The main vineyard in 1988, and the Pinot Gris in 1995
<i>Soil Type:</i>	Willakenzie
<i>Elevation:</i>	300-700 feet
<i>AVA:</i>	Yamhill-Carlton District

Vintage Notes

The 2005 growing season in the Willamette Valley was, yet again, a unique set of challenges. After beautiful early spring weather, we were deluged with heavy rain during bloom. Because of this, pollination was impeded and a poor fruit set resulted in a very small crop. However, after that first soaking we were rewarded with a near perfect summer and early fall. Warm days and cold nights in late August and early September provided great flavor maturity, while restraining sugar levels. A fit of poor weather as the grapes approached readiness required some patience before picking, but it was patience well rewarded. The resulting wines have a sleek elegance and the compact structure of dancers rather than the lush muscularity of the 2003 or 2004 vintages.