

2006 Bishop Creek Cellars Pinot Noir North Willamette Valley, Oregon

"Like the early arrival of spring, this wine is a light and bright Pinot noir, rather than ink-colored or over-oaked. Released early by popular demand, this vintage is sure to thrill your palate now or after several years in the cellar."

- Urban Wineworks Staff



Tasting Notes

Scarlet in color, sweet aromas fill the nose. Bright cranberry and spice flavors entice your palate in this very fruit forward wine. A soft texture leads to a smooth finish. Enjoy this medium-bodied Pinot noir with turkey this year or cellar it for another five years.

Winemaking Notes

2006 saw beautiful fruit delivered early and cold. This fruit forward vintage was aged 11 months in 10% new oak barrels. We added a very small percentage of whole clusters and then the wine went through an extended period of natural malolactic fermentation. The light color is specific to this vintage; probably a result of the large berries and a higher proportion of juice to skins. The wine was bottled in September 2007. 748 cases were produced.

Bishop Creek Vineyard

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

Vintage Notes

The 2006 vintage was about as good a combination of growing conditions as a grapevine could ask for. Bud break came right on schedule, followed by near perfect weather at bloom and set. Perhaps as a result, both clusters and berries were relatively large compared to recent vintages. July and August were very warm causing sugar levels to spike a little earlier than expected. In September we had our typical early fall rain followed by a beautiful Indian summer. The fruit matured perfectly right around the end of September and beginning of October. Unlike 2005, in which we were able to pick at three different times as the various sections of the vineyard ripened, in 2006, everything ripened at the same time. This added a sense of urgency to the harvest but in the end, we got all the fruit in to the winery in a timely fashion.