Cristom

From the iconic Louise Vineyard , this Pinot Noir reveals layers of cherry , spices , and earthy tones, embodying the essence of the Eola-Amity Hills AVA .

CRISTOM VINEYARDS

Louise Vineyard Pinot Noir 2021

Oregon, USA

94 James Suckling

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Region and Vineyards

The **Louise Vineyard**, established in **1993**, is named after the great-grandmother of Tom Gerrie, Cristom's second-generation owner and winegrower. Situated on the **lowest slopes** of the estate, the vineyard spans **12.3 acres** and is characterized by a mix of **volcanic soils**, **marine sediments**, and **Missoula Flood silts**. This diversity in soil types adds depth and intensity to the wine.

Protected by a small forest to the west and south, the vineyard is partially sheltered from the cool **Pacific Ocean breezes** funneled through the **Van Duzer Corridor**. This moderates acidity in the fruit while allowing the 27–31-year-old vines to yield grapes of exceptional richness and complexity.

Winemaking

This vintage was marked by a long growing season, influenced by cool spring temperatures and a warm summer, allowing the grapes to develop nuanced flavors. The wine was crafted from **hand-harvested fruit** with **58% whole-cluster fermentation**, enhancing aromatic complexity and structure.

Fermentation utilized **100% native yeast**, reflecting the vineyard's unique microbiome. Aging occurred over **17 months on lees** in **30% new French oak barrels** , contributing subtle notes of spice and depth while preserving the purity of the fruit. The wine was bottled **unfined and unfiltered**, emphasizing authenticity and terroir.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with garnet highlights.
- **Aromas**: Complex and seductive, featuring **Rainier cherry**, **Asian spices**, **hoisin sauce**, and **nutmeg**.
- **Palate**: Expansive and layered, with flavors of **crunchy plum**, **dark chocolate**, baking spices, and hints of **herbal nuances**. Supple tannins and a vibrant acidity lead to a long, elegant finish.

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Did you know?

The **Louise Vineyard** represents the oldest vines at Cristom and serves as a microcosm of the diverse terroir of the **Eola-Amity Hills**. Its unique position on the estate allows it to produce wines with both richness and precision, capturing the essence of Oregon Pinot Noir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck confit with cherry glaze**: Highlights the wine's red fruit and spice notes.
- **Grilled salmon with a soy-ginger glaze**: Complements the wine's earthy and savory flavors.
- **Wild mushroom tart with thyme**: Enhances the wine's herbal and earthy nuances.
- **Aged cheddar or Gruyère**: Balances the wine's richness and acidity.

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2021)

Very pretty nose of jasmine, white rosemary, acacia, white peaches, pears, pie crust, cloves and lemons. Aromatically complex, with elegant and light-footed layers. Medium-bodied. Tight and bright.

Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2021)

The 2021 Pinot Noir Louise Vineyard was fermented with 46% whole clusters, and the wine matured for 18 months in 38% new French oak. It has intense aromas of cranberry sauce, pomegranate and orange peel, plus nuances of black tea and forest floor. The light-bodied palate is chalky and fresh with understated fruit and a long, spicy finish. 786 cases were made.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2021)

My favorite Louise since Tina spent 18 months on lees in French oak, 38% new. Dark, rich aromas and flavors of Bing cherries wrapped in bittersweet dark chocolate are accented by bits of mint and cedar. Silky tannins and lively acidity are in harmony with the fruit and alcohol, providing a crisp, clean mouthfeel.