

2009 Balcombe Vineyard

Dundee Hills Appellation



WINERY:

Patricia Green Cellars is located in Ribbon Ridge, a small viticultural area in Yamhill County. The 52 acre Estate property is at the heart of the winery that produces Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay from some of Oregon's finest vineyard sites. Owners Patricia Green and Jim Anderson use a combination of attention to detail in their vineyards, (all of which are non-irrigated) practical experience in winemaking and a passion for what they do to create balanced, textured, beautiful, unique and critically acclaimed wines.

OWNERS' COMMENTS

Balcombe Vineyard is simply one of the best vineyards we work with and every year it produces wines of terrific quality that are absolutely true to the Dundee Hills. For those of you who don't know this site is located toward the top of the Dundee Hills on Breyman Orchard Rd. It was planted in 1990 to Pommard and we have worked with the fruit every year since 1997 so we have become pretty accustomed to how the grapes grow, ripen and ferment into wine. All of these aspects are very important pieces of making high quality Pinot Noir.

This is a particularly exciting vintage in this vineyard. Balcombe is a pretty high elevation site and is very exposed so warm vintages tend to be beneficial in this site. The warmth of 2009 has proved not only to be beneficial but to be a veritable goldmine in Balcombe Vineyard. We have worked with Pinot Noir from this vineyard for 13 vintages and this was the first time we were able to use whole-cluster fermentation as part of the wine's creation. We take whole-cluster fermentation very seriously and only use it when we have fully mature (lignified) stems to ensure that the contribution the stems make to the fermentation and, ultimately, the wine is as positive as possible. Because of Balcombe's elevation and exposure this, clearly, does not happen very often. We were extremely excited when we saw that we had the opportunity to add another dimension to this already beautiful wine. If you have liked Balcombe Vineyard over the years this is an exceptional opportunity. The whole clusters add perfume, guts, texture and tannins. As long-lived as this wine can be there is no doubt that the inclusion of stems will make this a particularly age-worthy candidate. The sappy fruit is reined in beautifully and there is an extra gear to this wine that makes it a top-notch Dundee Hill Pinot Noir that should enthrall those of you that have loved it in the past and add new converts to the greatness of this 20 year-old site. We simply cannot say enough about the beauty, precision, depth and potential this wine possesses. It is a revelation to work with a vineyard for so long and see something almost magically different and wonderful.

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