

Nicolas-Jay Estate press					
Date	Wine	Vintage	Periodical	Score	Notes
11/9/2021	Affinités Chardonnay	2019	Matthew Jukes	18/20	Affinités is made from several small Chardonnay parcels taken from Willamette combined with fruit from Bishop Creek. Only 359 cases were made in 2019, and while volumes are set to grow, and there is a chance that around 800 cases might be produced in 2021 when they bring two older vineyards into the mix, this will always be an extremely rare wine and one which is likely to remain on allocation. If you are keen to secure stock, you must hurry. Having said this, I could write this sentence for every wine in this review! 2019 Affinités Chardonnay is a more sensual wine than I expected, and it has finely-judged control and pristine acidity. Beautiful, silky, balanced and forward, it is great that we have this wine in the UK because it will put the brakes on those people who are tempted to open a Bishop Creek Chardonnay too young. It also performs like a stunning support act for Bishop Creek as there is enough of this vineyard in the core of Affinités to make it a genuinely authentic chip off the old block. 18/20
11/9/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2019	Matthew Jukes	19/20	While 2018 was a dry and warm vintage, 2019 was quite the reverse, with cooler and also wetter conditions. This means that 2018 and 2019 Bishop Creek Chardonnays are polar opposites in terms of shape and size but they are almost identical in NDA and flavour triggers and this speaks volumes about the quality and integrity of this superb site. With all of the hallmarks of a cooler vintage this wine has thrilling weightlessness and heroic length underpinned by crystalline acidity and this adds up to an ultra-refined creation with magical balance. It will certainly need a few years to relax and mellow and when it does this will be a memorable vintage for this magnificent wine. 19+/20
11/9/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2019	Matthew Jukes	18.5/20	2019 l'Ensemble is another <i>tour de force</i> from NJ and, in common with the 2018 (which you can read about in Episode 51), it is a cuvée made up of the best vineyards and their best barrels. In fact, 65% of L'Ensemble is taken from the Bishop Creek, Momtazi and Nysa Vineyards, which are all made as single-site wines (see below). I am extremely taken with this vintage because the fruit is at once silky and alluring, and then the heartbeat of the wine, coming from the three tonally different but amazingly harmonious vineyards, underpins the succulence giving it drive, depth and determination. Floral on the nose, silky on the mid-palate and grand on the finish, much of the gravitas here is weighted towards the rear of the experience, indicating spectacularly well-drilled tannins resulting from the incredible quality of the Pinot skins. 18.5+/20
11/9/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2019	Matthew Jukes	18/20	Own-Rooted production is only a couple of hundred cases, and this is because finding Pinot vines on their own roots is needle in a haystack stuff. There are fewer than 100 acres in Oregon alone, and there is nothing like this in Burgundy. There is a darkness and coolness to this wine which, whether this is true or not, seems more elemental and soil-soaked than any of the other cuvées. These 2019s are all a couple of notches less alcoholic than the 2018s, and this further enhances the depth and darkness at the centre of this particular wine. Drier, firmer, raspier and thought-provoking, this wine is drawn from relatively old vines, and while, on the face of it, it is certainly the least flamboyant of the collection, it is also the most intriguing. 18+/20
11/9/2021	Momtazi P Noir	2019	Matthew Jukes	18.5/20	Rich, dark and brooding, with profound depth and weight, there is a coolness and calmness to this wine which is completely captivating, and it almost possesses Vosne-like traits from its colour to its depth of black cherry fruit. The silkiness is superb, and there is exoticism here in rose petal notes that add fleeting moments of glamour. Biodynamically farmed, this site is almost always the last to be picked because of its cooler setting. The cold air rushed up from the coast, augmenting the terrific quality of the fruit while adding tension and drama to the tannins. 18.5+/20
11/9/2021	Nysa P Noir	2019	Matthew Jukes	18.5/20	In the Dundee Hills, Nysa is an early ripening, warmer site, and this is evident in the open, cherry-soaked nose and the slightly paler hue. While this is very much a red and not a black style of Pinot, there is significant acidity here which snaps shut on the finish making this a Ninjalike creature that lures you in and reacts with lightning speed just when you allow yourself to relax. It will develop beautifully if you have the patience reflecting a tender but opinionated side to the magnificent Pinot Noir grape. 18.5+/20
11/9/2021	Bishop Creek P Noir	2019	Matthew Jukes	19/20	I am finishing with my favourite of the single-site wines, and this is certainly the most commanding and upright of the collection. Profound, complex and structured, this is a seriously impressive wine with a deep core of imposing black fruit and a more obviously firm and closed finish. There is so much to discover here, given time, and the class in this cuvée in 2019 is undisputed. 19+/20
11/8/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	International Wine Report	94	A phenomenal blend from the 8 different vineyard sites that is blended together with the most expressive barrels from each location. The wine also ages in 1/3 new French oak for an additional 6 months to give more structure and depth to the wine upon release. A beautiful effort was made with the nose on this wine, as I enjoyed it for several minutes before taking a sip - black cherry, black plum skin, dried herbs, sweet vanilla are all present. Elevated acidity and a medium tannin structure give way to a medium to full bodied wine that is balanced. It finishes tart with meaty savory notes. This should have what it takes to easily age for a decade or more.
11/8/2021	WV P Noir	2018	International Wine Report	93	Made from a blend of organic grapes from almost every AVA in the Willamette Valley and brought up in 20% new French oak, the wine displays medium ruby in the glass. Fresh red cherry, black tea, milk chocolate pencil shavings and toasted clove pop on the nose. Wonderful crunchy red fruit and some toasted anise hit the palate along with bountiful acidity and silky tannins to deliver a yummy wine that will age for another decade or more.
11/8/2021	Momtazi P Noir	2018	International Wine Report	94	This spectacular Pinot Noir from the Momtazi Vineyard is brought up in 50% new French oak and displays notes of boysenberry, huckleberry, black licorice, smoked baking spices, fresh cedar and some turned wet earth components. As with all of Nicolas-Jay's wines, the nose is unreal and worth buying the wine for that alone. The palate presents medium plus acidity and mellow tannins alongside a saline and savory characteristic that matches the luscious fruit. Only 145 cases made. Highly recommended.
11/8/2021	Nysa P Noir	2018	International Wine Report	93	Organic and biodynamic grapes from the Nysa Vineyard and brought up in 50% new French oak. Starting off a tad reductive on the nose, it quickly blows off to display aromas of black raspberry, blueberry, crushed wet stone, dried mint, matchstick and candied tangerine peel. Silky tannins, medium high acidity and a medium body complete the wine and helps it deliver a finish that is lively and lengthy. Only 150 cases produced.

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11/8/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2018	International Wine Report	97	Ungrafted, old-vines that are at least 30 years old deliver the heavenly fruit for this Pinot Noir, which is the best I've ever tasted from the estate. Wild strawberry, black cherry, Early gray tea, graphite, dried lavender, toasted white chocolate, and some almost Syrah-like meaty and olive components. Wonderfully complex on the nose, the palate is just as interesting with added components of macerated huckleberry and sandalwood flavors. The acidity and tannins are perfectly balanced and the wine dances over the tongue and finishes savory with a black-fruit and earthy ending. Drink now with a heavy decant or enjoy over the next 15 years or more. Only 270 cases produced. Highly recommended.
11/8/2021	Bishop Creek P Noir	2018	International Wine Report	95	A large majority of the fruit comes from ungrafted vines that were planted over 30 years ago and are framed completely organic and biodynamic. The 2018 Bishop's Creek rests on 50% new French oak that very much compliments the wine's luscious fruit flavors and doesn't overpower. The Bishop's Creek Pinot Noir always delivers, think aromas of crushed wild blackberry, white cracked peppercorn, dried lavender, toasted almonds and sweet baking spices. The palate presents gorgeous red and dark fruit flavors with added components of black raspberry, green olive and brown mushroom. The wine is balanced, luscious, and delicious. Only 290 cases made. Highly recommended.
11/8/2021	Affinités Chardonnay	2019	International Wine Report	91	100% organic grapes make up this Affinités Chardonnay that sees no new French oak and supplies aromas of lemon peel, white flower blossoms, lemongrass and wet white sand. The palate is more citrus than apple or stone fruit. It's lean and crisp on the palate bringing lovely acidity and structure. Only 359 cases produced.
11/8/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2019	International Wine Report	94	Organically farmed on vines that are almost 30 years old, this Burgundian-style Chardonnay sees 20% new French oak, which gives it wonderful aromatics and body. Flinty notes are present alongside orange creamsicle, green apple, lemon zest, and wet stones. The palate is much richer than the nose with notes of ripe yellow apple, white nectarine, flint, cinnamon stick and just a hint of buttered croissant. Racy acidity and a medium to full body complete this delicious Chardonnay. Only 93 cases produced.
11/8/2021	Affinités Chardonnay	2019	Wineanorak	94	Nice intensity on the nose, which is nutty and toasty with powerful pear and citrus fruit. Linear, quite mineral, with the concentration and richness nicely restrained with good acidity. Lovely weight here with a fine, spicy finish. Serious effort.
11/8/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2019	Wineanorak	95	This is really lively with a lovely linear flow: it shows great acidity and precise citrus fruit, with a hint of pear richness and a touch of green apple. There's a touch of mandarin here. Real intensity and purity with potential for development.
11/8/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2019	Wineanorak	96	Beautifully floral aromatics with sweet red cherries: so inviting. The palate is supple and elegant with fresh red cherries and plums. Very fresh and delicious with such purity and real elegance. I love the texture to this wine which is just so fine. Real elegance.
11/8/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2019	Wineanorak	95	Lovely brightness to this wine, with good acidity, and fresh red cherry and redcurrant fruit. This has some structure, but it sits in nicely amid the focused bright fruit. There's a transparency to this wine, which is bright and purposeful. Very fine.
11/8/2021	Momtazi P Noir	2019	Wineanorak	97	This is ripe, fresh and quite dense with keen acidity and bright red cherry and raspberry fruit. Great concentration here and lots of freshness, with a slight liqueur-like richness on the mid-palate. This is really fine and potentially long lived, combining good structure and acidity. Sensational.
11/8/2021	Nysa P Noir	2019	Wineanorak	95	Very fine aromatics: bright red cherries with some floral overtones and a slight sappiness, showing a hint of oak, too. Astonishing elegance on the palate with red cherries, cranberries and a hint of cedar spice. This is so pretty, in a lighter style, but it doesn't lack concentration or potential ageworthy. Give this a little time to fully integrate. So good.
11/8/2021	Bishop Creek P Noir	2019	Wineanorak	95	Very fresh and fine with lovely redcurrant and cherry fruit, with nice intensity and structure. There's a distinctive woody spiciness hiding under the fresh fruit. Has a touch of gravel and spice with fresh red cherries on the finish. Lovely intensity here and potential for development.
9/23/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2018	Decanter	96	This exciting blend showcases three sites planted on their own roots: the Hyland Vineyard in McMinnville, the Nysa Vineyard in Dundee, and the estate's own Bishop Creek site in Yamhill-Carlton. The fruit is destemmed and fermented on native yeasts before aging over two winters in French casks. The result shows a sweet, forward cassis fruit that expands and takes on volume on the palate to echo enticingly on the finish.
9/23/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	Decanter	95	L'Ensemble is the selection of the best barrels from across the favoured vineyards where Nicolas-Jay sources grapes, including the estate Bishop Creek. These are not pre-selected, but chosen anew each year. The 2018 selection shows off the ripe, black fruit of the vintage with an appealing savoury, meaty character and a dense, tannic structure on the palate. Yet the sensitive winemaking has preserved freshness and elegance despite the warm, dry growing season to leave a lasting impression. This wine will age magnificently well
9/23/2021	Bishop Creek P Noir	2018	Decanter	94	The first estate vineyard in the Nicolas-Jay joint venture is Bishop Creek, located in Yamhill-Carlton AVA and planted on its own roots in 1988 and 1990. Jean-Nicolas Meo and his Oregon winemaker Tracy Kendall have produced a winning result in 2018, with ripe red and black cherry aromas, a hint of spice, and a texture that is lovely, rich, and dense but not heavy. This wine shows well now but will certainly age for at least a decade.
9/1/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2018	Suckling	94	This is a blend of three vineyards and has a very polished nose of ripe red cherry and spice with assertive oak in play, like modern Burgundy. The texture is exceptional and delivers soft, suave and fine tannins that carry bright red and darker-cherry flavors. Really impressive. Drink or hold.
9/1/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	Suckling	94	Spiced plums, cherries, rose hips, cedar and baking spices on the nose. Dried lemon zest, too. It's medium-bodied with tightly knit tannins. Tight, textured and energetic. Excellent structure, freshness and drive. Unfiltered. Drink or hold.
9/1/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2017	Suckling	94	This is a beautiful wine with dark berries, mushrooms and pretty ripe berry undertones. Fruit tea as well. Medium-bodied with fine tannins and a reserved finish. Light iodine at the end. Drink now or hold.
9/1/2021	Bishop Creek P Noir	2018	Suckling	94	Complex aromas of cherry stones, blueberries, wild plums, lemon zest, wet earth and spices. It's medium-bodied with tight-grained tannins. Tight and refined. Better in a year or two. Unfiltered. Drink from 2022.
9/1/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	Suckling	93	Ripe peach and pear aromas with a pastry-like edge, as well as custard notes. The palate is full-flavored and gently fleshy with an impressive, deep-set ball of lightly spiced fruit and pear custard and pastry to close. Drink now.

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9/1/2021	Nysa P Noir	2018	Suckling	93	Wild raspberries, violets, dried leaves, gravel, crushed shells and cedar on the nose. It's medium-bodied with sleek tanning and lively acidity. Wonderfully fresh and bright. Tight. Unfiltered. Drink or hold.
9/1/2021	WV P Noir	2018	Suckling	93	The nose offers a sophisticated impression of deep and gently earthy blueberries and cherries with a fresh-herb flush, too. The palate is built around blueberry and red-cherry flavors with a very convincing texture and tannin style that holds depth and focus in the finish. Hold or drink.
9/1/2021	Affinités Chardonnay	2019	Suckling	92	Peaches, spiced pears, grilled lemons and toasted hazelnuts on the nose. It's medium to full bodied with buttery, concentrated later of stone fruit and spice. Lots of freshness and personality. Hints of yogurt and vanilla bean at the end. Unfiltered. Drink now.
9/1/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	Wine Enthusiast	94	This is a reserve level, select-barrel blend from some of the eight sites the winery works with. Already complex and threaded with a mix of blue and black fruits, savory herbs, citrus and sharply defined barrel toast, it's a wine that may take some years to unpack. Native yeast was used, and one-third was aged in new French oak. Drink through 2033. Cellar Selection.
4/26/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	Wilfred Wong	93	The 2018 Nicolas Jay L'Ensemble Pinot Noir offers excellent balance and concentration. TASTING NOTES: This wine brings power and style to the fore. Enjoy its aromas and flavors of black fruit, berries, and oak. Deep ruby, garnet color; black fruit aroma, quite rich and attractive; medium bodied, loads of layers on the palate; dry, medium acidity, excellent balance; black fruit flavors, some oak, berries; medium to long finish
4/25/2021	Affinités Chardonnay	2019	Wilfred Wong	93	The 2019 Nicolas-Jay Affinités Chardonnay is stylish, refined, and long. TASTING NOTES: This wine is bright and fresh with aromas and flavors of tart citrus, lime peel, and dried earth. Light straw, green color; tart citrus aroma, lime, attractive, stylish, dried earth, medium depth; medium bodied, excellent tension on the palate; dry, medium acidity, very good balance; dried earth, tangy citrus flavors; medium finish, perky aftertaste.
3/17/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	Matthew Jukes	19/20	This is the estate's very first white wine and it is utterly thrilling. A micro-production of only 120 cases, it was made from a two-acre section of the Bishop Creek vineyard which was grafted over from Pinot Gris to Chardonnay in 2015 and I wonder whether a PG echo can still be heard in the ever so subtle exoticism in the heart of this wine? Delicate fruit handling is key at Nicolas-Jay and this is evident in the weightlessness of this wine. It is certainly a mouthful because you feel its presence and intensity, and if you were to put in into a Chardonnay scale of Village, Premier and Grand Cru-shaped wines it would sit somewhere in the mid-low range of the Premiers, but in terms of fruit quality and length of flavour, freshness and inquisitiveness, this wine is right up at the top of the ladder. Only 20% new oak was used (i.e. only one barrel was new) and you can feel it, but only in a tight-grained, ultra-blonde manner and this serves to give the heady fruit a fabulous platform on which to perform. The discreet peachiness, gentle honeyed tones and lusty mid-palate are all brought back to order by tremendously refreshing acidity and the whole experience is literally a breath of fresh air. There are few Chardonnays with this flavour silhouette that leave you feeling so satiated and yet also so refreshed. I googled Jay and found out that he is a legendary music executive and I have an embarrassing number of albums and CDs in my collection for which he is responsible. One thing is absolutely certain – this wine is not a one-hit-wonder. 19/20 (drink now – 2025)
3/17/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	Matthew Jukes	18.5/20	L'Ensemble, as the name suggests, is a blend that proves the theory that the sum of the parts is much greater than the whole. It also nods, rather obviously, to Jay's music roots, making it a rare word that combines wine and music completely. It is drawn from a blend of barrels from Nicolas-Jay's top organic, biodynamic and LIVE-certified sites across its Willamette Valley vineyards: Momtazi, Nysa, Hopewell, Knight's Gambit, Hyland, and Bishop Creek, Nicolas-Jay's estate vineyard. Another debut label and another resounding success, L'Ensemble is, in theory, the best of the best, and yet it doesn't seem showy, forced nor too imposing, preferring to sit back in the glass and it seemed to me to resemble the sort of flavour that one might expect if you dared to blend parcels from up and down the Côte de Nuits – not for a generic Bourgogne Rouge as some might do, but for a dangerously heretical ultra-Premier Cru blend, which I am certain doesn't exist, but which would be good fun to try! I suppose that L'Ensemble gives Jean-Nicolas the freedom to do just this without the Burgundy police ringing his doorbell. I am all for making wines as good as they can possibly be, with no rules attached. In the music world, making a supergroup often ends in failure, but if this Pinot were a band it would be Audioslave. This rather signposts my own tastes in music, and it certainly means that I consider it to be a rare slice of genius. I do not mean to offend Jay, but I do hope that he understands my thought process here, if not my predilection for hard rock. In terms of the flavour, it is a soaring success with perfect-judged François Frères barrels keeping the wonderfully expressive fruit in check. It is certainly the finest red wine made from this label to date. 18.5+/20 (drink now – 2030)
3/15/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	The Buyer (UK)		Truly outstanding debut white wine. Blessed with the 2018 vintage that had no heat spikes and allowed the winemakers to carefully choose the optimum harvest time, this is a stunning marriage between an opulent and elegant style, that reeks of class without being a show pony and with an almost perfect balance. Pale straw to look at, the nose is delicate and slightly reticent but slowly draws you into the glass with comice pear, lemon pith and honeysuckle; a lot of detail here. The orchard fruit and lemon zest continues on the palate, with just a touch of toasty oak in the distant background. The mouthfeel is medium weight, rounded with ripe tannins, but fresh with a decent structure and a mineral tingle that persists. My word what a wine.
3/15/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	The Buyer (UK)		First release of this new, top cuvée. This is a new 'best of the best' barrel selection whose name L'Ensemble hints at a 'more than a sum of its parts' and also a nod to Boberg's music connections. To look at, the wine is medium ruby-purple; the aromatics sit on a tantalising balance between New and Old World – are we in Chambolle-Musigny or the Pacific North West? The nose is complex, ripe and sumptuous with mulberry fruit, ripe red cherry, tree bark and red liquorice; the palate is quite stunning and places you in the finest Côtes des Nuits sites – tight-knit mouthfeel, precise, detailed – a pomegranate tartness keeping the depth of the red and black fruit in check, nuances of vanilla. To its real credit it doesn't feel like a blend of sites – it's got a real harmony, the fruit tightly framed by the acidity which, combined with the chalky tannins, leaves your tongue begging for another mouthful.

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3/11/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	Wineanorak	94	Marine sedimentary soils at altitude: this comes from the top part of the estate Bishop Creek vineyard, planted in 1990, and organically farmed since 2014. This sees 20% new oak and is the first white from Nicolas Jay . This is fresh and finely wrought with fine meal and toast notes alongside rounded lemon and white peach fruit. There's a subtle saline streak under the fruit that's really appealing, as well as some grainy, spicy character. Lovely detail and precision. There's some richness here, but it's moderated by the salinity and the fresh lemony character: it's a really mineral expression of Chardonnay. Very, very fine: it's a subtle wine that repays questioning. Sit with it for a while and it will surprise you.
3/11/2021	L'Ensemble P Noir	2018	Wineanorak	95	A selection of the most expressive barrels from each of the eight vineyards, spanning Dundee Hills, Eola-Amity, McMinville and Yamhill-Carlton. Wild yeast, unfiltered and unfinned, aged 14 months in French oak (a third new). This is fresh, refined and textural with sweet black cherry and berry fruits, some nice acidity and appropriate tannic structure. It's harmonious and silky, but also has nice brightness and a bit of grip, suggesting this could age in interesting ways. It has an Oregon stamp, but also an old world sensibility and refinement. I love the core of fresh, fluid, silky black cherry fruit, which never veers off into overripeness.
1/20/2021	Own-Rooted P Noir	2017	Wine Spectator	93	Svelte and refined, with a lively beam of acidity and mineral tannins wrapped in elegantly layered raspberry and blueberry flavors laced with clove and spice. Drink now through 2028
1/20/2021	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	Wine Spectator	93	Steely yet rich and plush, with detailed apple and lime flavors that are accented by crushed stone and linger on the crisp, vibrant finish.
1/6/2021	WV P Noir	2017	Wine Spectator	93	A lovely wine, elegantly complex and expressive, with raspberry and rose petal aromas accented by a hint of cardamom. Builds tension toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2029
1/6/2021	Bishop Creek P Noir	2017	Wine Spectator	93	Refined and keenly focused, with distinctive cherry and guava flavors that are laced with rose petal and savory spice accents, picking up tension and polish toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2027
1/6/2021	Momtazi P Noir	2017	Wine Spectator	93	A wine that unfurls slowly, with a simmering backbone of tannin and acidity that highlights elegant rose petal, raspberry and crushed rock accents. Cellar for now. Best from 2022 through 2030.
12/16/2020	Nysa P Noir	2017	Wine Spectator	94	Impeccably structured and refined, with a complex seductive beam of black raspberry, orange-tinged tea and cardamom that build richness and intensity toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2028.
11/1/2020	Momtazi P Noir	2017	Wine Enthusiast	93	Many wineries purchase and feature Momtazi grapes, but this wine, more than most, captures their essential character. It's concentrated yet restrained, showcasing the "earth-driven characteristics" cited on the back label. Brambly berries, sweet hints of tomato, citrus avors in abundance and a pleasant hint of fresh greens complete a supple and impressive wine with ample length and detail
11/1/2020	Bishop Creek P Noir	2017	Wine Enthusiast	93	Bishop Creek is the estate vineyard, now two decades old and coming into its prime. This is a wine to stash and savor down the road a bit. Currently it's tight and firm, lightly herbal, detailed and impeccably balanced with a mix of wild berries, citrus and soil. Drink 2022 through the rest of the decade and perhaps beyond.
11/1/2020	WV P Noir	2017	Wine Enthusiast	92	A continuing exploration of French winemaking technique applied to Oregon terroir, the latest releases from Nicolas-Jay show a savvy complexity that rewards your focused attention. Here the strawberry fruit is accented with avors of composted earth, coffee grounds and cocoa powder, all wellintegrated and proportionate. The wine is supremely tasty right from the start, and should continue to provide pleasure during the course of this decade.
11/1/2020	Affinités Chardonnay	2018	Wine Enthusiast	92	Luscious, beautifully balanced fruit avors blend citrus, apple and lemon curd, along with a light suggestion of greens. As the first Chardonnay release from the winery, it is complete, refreshing and elegant. Editors' Choice
11/1/2020	Affinités Chardonnay	2018	International Wine Report	92	The newest of the Nicolas-Jay family, 2018 Affinites Chardonnay, brings refreshing and approachable aromas of pear, citrus, and a trace of dried herbs. On the palate, high acidity erupts in your mouth with flavors of fresh cut green apple, d'anjou pears, and shortbread lemon tart. The wine elegantly finished with subtle hints of white peach. This is an attractive and well balanced first vintage. 100% neutral oak - 120 cases made
11/1/2020	Bishop Creek P Noir	2017	International Wine Report	96	The stunning 2017 Bishop Creek vineyard, Pinot Noir from Nicolas-Jay is a gem of a wine. Fresh blueberries, red currants, toasted hazelnuts and dried thyme explode from the gorgeous ruby core. The nose is so perfectly poised that I spent 15 minutes enjoying it unfolding in the glass before I could dare take a sip. The mouthfeel is full-bodied and sits in your mouth as if you are walking a tightrope, but staying perfectly balanced throughout. Flavors of ripe marionberries, huckleberries, dried mushroom, and a bit of smoked earth coat your palate to a long, textured finish. This wine is serious - seriously delicious. Only 270 cases made. TOP 100 - #1 highest scored Oregon Pinot Noir, #2 highest scored Domestic Pinot Noir
11/1/2020	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	International Wine Report	94	This racy but elegant Chardonnay from Nicolas-Jay's Bishop Creek vineyard opens with aromas of ripe peach, tropical pineapple, sage and lightly charred oak. The front pallet hits you with a mouthwatering but rich acidity and flavors of fresh nectarine, lemon peel and roasted hazelnuts. The wine contains 20% new French oak and is reminiscent of a beautiful French Meursault, which coincides with their Burgundian style of wine making. This wine has what it takes to age beautifully for 10 years or more. Only 120 cases made.
11/1/2020	Nysa P Noir	2017	International Wine Report	94	The 2017 Nysa vineyard Pinot Noir from Nicolas-Jay spends 12 months in 50% new French oak and comes from own-rooted vines. One of the estate's more robust wines, the nose explodes with aromatics of ripe red raspberries, red currants and baked cherry pie with a cinnamon-vanilla crust. I could literally sit and enjoy the nose on this wine all day long. The palate is a treat in your mouth, with focused red berry, ripe peach and candied cherry flavors. The tannins, alcohol and fruit are in perfect balance allowing this wine to age for another decade. Only 94 cases made.
11/1/2020	Momtazi P Noir	2017	International Wine Report	94	The 2017 Momtazi Pinot Noir from Nicolas-Jay spends 12 months in 50% new French oak. The vines sit on volcanic and marine sedimentary soils giving the wine strong minerality and sense of place. Higher elevation, cool evenings, and strong wind all help to form a rich and silky wine. The nose bursts with macerated blackberries and ripe red cherries. Flavors of concentrated dark red fruits melt into luscious baking spices, while the lingering acid keeps the palate juicy. Violet notes dance throughout while the tannins slowly build for a long and lively finish.

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9/1/2020	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	Wine & Spirits	93	An older planting of mostly pinot noir in the rain shadow of the Coast Range, Bishop Creek has 2.5 acres of chardonnay, farmed organically, on sedimentary soils. It's a generous wine, with high-toned lemon-lime scents deepening with air to something more wheaty and substantial, like pineapple. But the flavors remain tart and lively, with a kind of bakedlime rim of flavor suggesting richness and raciness at once. Energetic and lively, this is built to age.
8/1/2020	Affinités Chardonnay	2018	L.M. Archer		Grace Kelly in a glass...The French have a term for a wine so delicious you want to keep it for your personal use: 'PMG' ('pour mon geuele' or 'for my guzzle'.) Meet my new PMG: Sourced primarily from the winery's organic vineyard Bishop Creek in Yamhill-Carlton AVA, this wine combines the subtlety and structure of a graceful Burgundy, with the freshness and individuality of Oregon..."
8/1/2020	Bishop Creek P Noir	2017	Vinous	95	Shimmering ruby-red. Heady, spice- and mineral-accented cherry and blue fruit liqueur aromas take on incense and floral accents with air. Juicy, seamless and concentrated, offering densely packed black raspberry, boysenberry and cherry liqueur flavors that show sharp delineation and smoky back-end thrust. Finishes extremely long and lively, with resonating blue fruit, mineral and floral notes and polished tannins that make a late appearance. 50% new oak
8/1/2020	Nysa P Noir	2017	Vinous	95	Bright ruby. Highly perfumed, smoke- and spice-accented red berry liqueur, licorice and floral pastille scents show excellent definition and pick up an exotic spice nuance as the wine opens up. Sweet and expansive on the palate, offering deep raspberry, cherry cola, candied rose and spicecake flavors that show silky texture and vibrant mineral lift. Weighty yet energetic in style, finishing smooth and very long, with well-judged tannins and resonating florality. 50% new oak
8/1/2020	Own-Rooted P Noir	2017	Vinous	94	Deep magenta. Expansive red and blue fruit, floral and spice scents are underscored by emerging mineral and succulent herb flourishes. Firm and focused in the mouth, offering bitter cherry, boysenberry, candied rose and cola flavors that unfurl steadily through the midpalate. Shows good depth and energy as well, finishing very long and gently chewy, with fine-grained tannins adding framework and final grip. 50% new oak.
8/1/2020	Momtazi P Noir	2017	Vinous	94	Vivid ruby-red. Powerful black raspberry, cherry and floral scents are complemented by hints of incense and dusty minerals. Fleshy and concentrated but animated as well, offering juicy, sharply focused red and dark fruit and spicecake flavors that firm up with air, all sharpened by a spicy jolt of spiciness. Finishes smoky, chewy and impressively long, with resonating spice and floral notes, building tannins and subtle sweetness. 50% new oak
8/1/2020	WV P Noir	2017	Vinous	93	Deep, glistening red. Sexy, assertively perfumed aromas of fresh red fruits, potpourri and baking spices, with a hint of cola in the background. Juicy and focused on the palate, Jay's 2017 Pinot Noir offers vibrant raspberry, bitter cherry, blood orange and rose pastille flavors and a late jolt of spicy white pepper. Made in a fresh, exuberant style, with silky tannins sneaking in slowly to add shape and grip to the impressively long, spice-accented finish. Aged in 30% new oak.
8/1/2020	Bishop Creek Chardonnay	2018	Decanter	92	A superb example of the whites from this project. The vines at the top of this slope on Bishop Creek Estate were only recently budded over from Pinot Gris to Chardonnay, but the results are marvelous. With a luxurious ripe-apple fruit and a leesy hit of spice. Rewarding freshness and length on the palate - its a wine that will age. 10 NAMES TO KNOW.
6/1/2020	WV P Noir	2017	Wilfred Wong	92	Medium ruby color; bright red fruit and mineral notes in the aroma, lively, medium depth, excellent persistence; medium bodied, layered and textured on the palate; dry, medium acidity, very good balance; bright fruit and savory spices in the flavors, medium intensity; medium finish.
6/1/2020	Bishop Creek P Noir	2017	Wilfred Wong	93	Medium ruby, garnet color; ripe red and blue fruit aromas, excellent depth and brightness; medium bodied, racy on the palate, fine energy; dry, nice acidity, well balanced; frisky red fruit flavors, light spice note; lively aftertaste.
6/1/2020	Own-Rooted P Noir	2017	Wilfred Wong	94	Medium ruby, garnet color; black fruit aromas, quite rich, attractive, serious; medium bodied, layered and slightly elevated on the palate; dry, medium acidity; well balanced; bright red and black fruit flavors; medium to long finish.
6/1/2020	Affinités Chardonnay	2018	Wilfred Wong	92	Medium straw; light yellow color; savory spice, ripe fruit aroma, fine richness, excellent; medium bodied, nice acidity, well balanced; dry, fine acidity; well balanced; ripe peach skin; dried earth; persistent flavors; fine aftertaste
4/1/2020	WV P Noir	2017	International Wine Report	93	The 2017 Nicolas-Jay Willamette Valley Pinot Noir is a gorgeous release from this Willamette Valley winery. Aged in largely neutral oak, the nose evokes some wonderful freshness with bright red fruits that mingle with citrus zest and wet stone tones that mingle in the glass. The silky texture entices as ripe strawberry and guava flavors enter the fray, mixing with shades of Mandarin orange zest and earthy undertones that shine brightly on the palate. This is seriously good now and will only improve with cellaring.
4/1/2020	WV P Noir	2017	Apstein on Wine	93	There's a winsome Burgundian sensibility to their 2017, which combines lacy red fruit notes with savory ones. It has the hallmark of what I call "flavor without weight," which makes Pinot Noir, especially this one, such an alluring wine. The tannins are very fine, lending support without harshness. A hint of sweetness in the finish reveals its New World origins. It would be a perfect choice for the Thanksgiving table.
2/1/2020	Bishop Creek P Noir	2016	Decanter	94	100 cases were made of the 2016 Bishop Creek Pinot Noir, from Domaine Nicolas-Jay's estate vineyard. Poised and patient at first, aromas are driven by red and citrus fruits with a subtle woody quality in the background. The palate is silky and focused, with an elastic texture not unlike a bungee cord, snapping into an explosive and multi-faceted finish. A kingpin of the Nicolas-Jay lineup.
2/1/2020	Own-Rooted P Noir	2017	Decanter	94	A blend of entirely non-grafted vineyard sites, this own-rooted blend takes the purity of forest, citrus and red fruit notes found in the other wines to another level. It feels like a lid came off that you didn't know was on in the first place. It's seductive, enticing and three-dimensional, with notes of root beer, clove and struck match.
2/1/2020	WV P Noir	2017	Decanter	93	High-toned and damp, this wine displays aromas of wet earth, Earl Grey tea and cocoa nibs, followed by flavours of pomegranate and red plum skin. It's classic Oregon Pinot Noir, and one can see the Méo-Camuzet influence, albeit with a softer generosity. The blend is based around Bishop Creek Vineyard, with smaller portions of other sites including Hyland, Knight's Gambit and Hopewell.
2/1/2020	Momtazi P Noir	2016	Decanter	93	Momtazi is the most savoury and structured Pinot in the Nicolas-Jay portfolio. It displays aromas of conifer and rose petals, as well as a meaty note reminiscent of porchetta. The palate is edgy and firm, with a long, focused and nuanced finish that slowly builds in intensity. This went from being initially reticent to beautifully expressive quite rapidly. 80 cases produced.

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Date	Wine	Vintage	Periodical	Score	Notes
2/1/2020	Nysa P Noir	2016	Decanter	93	Perfumed, fine and elegant, Nysa exudes aromas of cherry blossom and rose water. The texture is deft and its complexity sneaks up on you, with notes of nectarine skin and tangerine appearing long after the wine has left your palate. The majority of the Nysa Vineyard was planted in 1990 to own-rooted Pommard clones. 80 cases produced.
10/1/2019	WV P Noir	2016	Wine Enthusiast	92	Young and a bit chewy, this brings a nicely-layered mix of orange peel, almond paste, black cherry, sassafras and cola, all in good proportion. Those well-integrated components are further highlighted with a streak of iron ore and graphite. The complexity is already impressive, and seems sure to improve with age.
9/1/2019	WV P Noir	2016	Suckling	93	Really lovely cherries and brambly raspberries, graphite and red flowers on the nose, leading to a rich and dark, deep, plush and spicy palate that has a very pure core of satiny, silky fruit flavor.
8/1/2019	WV P Noir	2016	Wine Spectator	94	Precise, deeply structured yet graceful, with expressive black cherry, river stone and black tea accents that build richness toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.
7/1/2019	WV P Noir	2016	Wilfred Wong	95	Some wines steal your heart, and the first vintage of Nicolas Jay—the stunning 2014 vintage brought me to my knees, begging for more. The 2016 vintage (just like the outstanding 2015 vintage) makes a powerful statement on how extraordinary the Willamette Valley can be. TASTING NOTES: This wine stands on its pedestal as one of the most impressive Pinot Noirs in the world. Enjoy its outstanding aromas and flavors of red and black fruits, savory spices and chalk, and enticing earth and stones.
7/1/2019	Nysa P Noir	2017	Suckling	93	"dark-cherry aromas sit amid dried wood, spices and bracken with a layer of leaves and earth here, too. The palate has quite a plush and smoothly succulent feel with an elegant, long and lithe, dark-cherry core that finishes impressively focused and fresh."
7/1/2019	Bishop Creek P Noir	2017	Suckling	93	"Very attractive aromas of violet flowers and blueberries sit in a fresh array of earth and spice complexity. The palate has a sleek and fluid build with a very polished core of fresh, fine tannin."
7/1/2019	Momtazi P Noir	2017	Suckling	95	"a very impressive pinot that has a spirited, lively style with abundantly fresh and fleshy red cherries, as well as dark peaches and nectarines."
2/19/2019	Bishop Creek P Noir	2016	Vinous	93	Bright red, pungent, floral and spice accented aromas of dark berries, cola and incense, lifted by a smoky mineral quality. Sappy, focused and subtly sweet, offering palate-staining, well-concentrated black raspberry, cherry cola and violet partille flavors and an exotic touch of Moroccan spices. The Floral smoke notes come back strong on the mineral-driven finish, which clings with excellent tenativity and gentle tannic grip.
2/19/2019	WV P Noir	2016	Vinous	92	Brilliant red, highly perfumed, spice-accented aromas of dark berries and cherry pit, with violet, musky rhubarb and woodsmoke flourishes building in the glass. Offers bitter cherry black raspberry, floral pastille and spicecake flavors that show very good concentration. A snap of juicy acidity provides back-end lift. The cherry and floral notes build steadily through a very long, penetrating finish that's supported by chewy, slow-mounting flavors.
2/19/2019	Momtazi P Noir	2016	Vinous	93	Vivid red, pungent cherry, black raspberry, floral and underbrush aromas are energized by vibrant mineral and exotic spice notes that build in the glass. Palate-staining, gently sweet cherry cola, dark berry and spicecake flavors. Show impressive depth as well as vivacity. Licorice and bitter chocolate notes emerge on an impressively long, penetrating finish shaped by dusty, steadily building tannins.
2/19/2019	Nysa P Noir	2016	Vinous	94	Deep shimmering red. Powerful, mineral and spice-accented red fruits and candied flowers on the expansive nose. Palate-staining raspberry, bitter cherry and spicecake flavors pick up a hint of vanilla and turn sweeter with aeration. Shows impressive clarity and spicy thrust on a very long, red-fruit driven finish framed by fine-grained, harmonious tannins.
6/1/2018	WV P Noir	2015	Jancis Robinson	17/20	Combines only-just-ripe cranberry fruit with glossy oak scent and lots of violet aromas too. Black cherry on the palate – big fruit intensity, but not at the expense of aromatic complexity. Lots of ageing potential. 17+/20 points.
12/1/2017	WV P Noir	2015	Suckling	94	Fresh wild strawberries, cloves, nutmeg, and black cherry essence. The palate is dark-fruited with round tannins, fine acidity and a fruity finish. Layered and polished
12/1/2017	WV P Noir	2015	Decanter	90	2015 was another warm vintage in the Willamette Valley, but this regular Nicolas-Jay Pinot is a touch more restrained than its older sibling. Notes of smoke, rich soil and wild berry fruit precede a bright, fine-grained and textural wine with more energy than the inaugural vintage.
10/1/2017	WV P Noir	2015	Wine Enthusiast	93	The second release from this impressive new project is a touch lighter than the previous vintage, but just as well built. Blending grapes from four different sub-AVAs, this shows a sleek and detailed mix of fruit—strawberry, plum and cherry—married to just the right amount of new French oak (one third of the barrels). Editors' Choice.
10/1/2017	WV P Noir	2015	Wine Spectator	91	A lovely wine, elegantly complex and expressive, with raspberry and rose petal aromas accented by a hint of cardamom. Builds tension toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2029
3/1/2017	Bishop Creek P Noir	2015	Wilfred Wong	94	Sophisticated, urbane, and pure, the 2015 Nicolas-Jay Pinot Noir expresses Willamette Valley authenticity. The wine exhibits red to blue fruits, with a streak of minerality. Its refined palate pairs it well with seared wild salmon.
3/1/2017	Bishop Creek P Noir	2015	Wine Enthusiast	93	The second release from this impressive new project is a touch lighter than the previous vintage, but just as well built. Blending grapes from four different sub-AVAs, this shows a sleek and detailed mix of fruit—strawberry, plum and cherry—married to just the right amount of new French oak (one third of the barrels). Editors' Choice.
12/1/2016	WV P Noir	2014	Wine Enthusiast	94	*Editors' Choice* A stunning debut for this new boutique, a joint project between Jean-Nicolas Méo (Domaine Méo-Camuzet) and Jay Boberg, co-founder of the music label, IRS Records. Deep and penetrating fruit flavors of blackberry and raspberry are buttressed by ample, proportionate acids and tannins. There's a graceful touch of fresh herb, along with black tea and clean loam.

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Date	Wine	Vintage	Periodical	Score	Notes
11/1/2016	WV P Noir	2014	Vinous	92	Deep bright red. A complex, highly perfumed bouquet evokes ripe red fruits, cola, Asian spices and rhubarb, plus a suave floral topnote. Juicy and focused on entry, then broader in the midpalate, offering appealingly sweet, supple red and dark berry and spicecake flavors and suggestions of candied flowers and mocha. Finishes sappy and very long, displaying repeating spiciness and smooth, slow-building tannins. This is quite an impressive wine for a "basic" bottling, much less a freshman effort.
7/1/2016	Bishop Creek P Noir	2014	Wine Spectator	93	Broad, expressive and light-footed, this brims with cherry, plum, licorice and cashew flavors that keep singing on the focused finish. Drink now through 2024. Top 100 #96
4/1/2016	Bishop Creek P Noir	2014	Wilfred Wong	95	One of the world's finest Pinot Noirs, this wine stands tall on the global stage! Exquisite and well-orchestrated, this is an amazing wine. When I first sniffed this wine, I was struck by its incredible purity. The vineyards and the Willamette Valley AVA spoke to me with brilliant and focused clarity and had me asking for more. Deep garnet in color, the nose offered enticing red and black fruit, with a distinct dried, savory herb note, black earth or black tea notes, and a definite wildness about it. Medium bodied on the palate, sweet tannins are present to protect the wine as it ages. Medium acidity, well balanced; beautifully choreographed flavors of red to black fruits, a dash of dried earth and savory herbs, a spice box of natural pleasures; medium finish, youthful aftertaste.
4/1/2016	Bishop Creek P Noir	2014	Wine Enthusiast	94	A stunning debut for this new boutique, a joint project between Jean-Nicolas Méo (Domaine Méo-Camuzet) and Jay Boberg, co-founder of the music label, IRS Records. Deep and penetrating fruit flavors of blackberry and raspberry are buttressed by ample, proportionate acids and tannins. There's a graceful touch of fresh herb, along with black tea and clean loam. Editors' Choice.
3/1/2016	WV P Noir	2014	Wine Spectator	93	#96 in Wine Spectator's Top 100 of 2016* Broad, expressive and light-footed, this brims with cherry, plum, licorice and cashew flavors that keep singing on the focused finish. Drink now through 2024.