

NICOLAS-JAY ESTATE 2018 L'ENSEMBLE PINOT NOIR, WILLAMETTE VALLEY

The Wine

Since releasing our first wine in 2014, we have learned considerably more about the vineyards we harvest year after year. As those sites have matured, we have also come to know them more intimately, gaining a greater understanding of their identity and characteristics from vineyard, to block and down to the row.

L'Ensemble encapsulates a strict temperament in channeling the raw beauty, tension and persistence from these top vineyard blocks and our most expressive barrels with vintage quality acting as our guide to levels of production.

Jean-Nicolas Méo is a winemaker on a path of constant reflection, a devotion to learn and always at battle to improve with every vintage.



Harvest

After a cool March, a wet April made for a slightly later than average bud break. Warm and dry weather thereafter made for normal bloom and veraison timing. While summer was warm, we had no heat spikes of past years, and the grapes matured without fear of sun burn or dehydration. Harvest gave us an absolutely perfect picking window. Grapes gained phenological maturity, and sugar accumulation progressed with an astonishing no loss of acid. We watched, tasted, tested and planned out our picking schedule - a luxury unknown in many vintages with looming rain or heat spikes. All vineyards were picked from the 14th of September to the 30th. For the first time, we saw almost perfect chemistry in the fruit - gorgeous ripe flavors, with ideal sugar and acid balance. The resulting wines are dense, aromatically complex with linear precision and age worthy tannins.

Winemaker Tasting Notes

Dark, brooding color with purple edges. A unique viscosity to this wine in the glass and immediate savory-spices drifting outward. Dark red berries, Hawaiian starfruit, root beer cask and sweet bark emerge as you lean in. Tightly wound entry that compresses, then explodes with prickly pears and pomegranates inside a light shell of sweet vanilla and roasted nuts as its momentum builds. The layers of flavors broaden with a tight framing of acids, chalky tannins and a level of tension that will certainly reveal more complexity in the months and years to come.



Sourcing

Vineyard	AVA	Vine Age	Farming	% Share	
Bishop Creek	Yamhill-Carlton	33 years	Organic	40%	Harvested: Sept 14-30, Harvest Brx: 23.3 Alcohol: 13.5%, TA: 5.2/L, pH: 3.61 Winemaking: Native yeast, unfiltered, unfiltered, vegan Cooperage: 33% New French Oak, 14 months Date Bottled: June 17, 2020 Production: 49 barrels
Nysa	Dundee Hills	31 years	Organic	18%	
Temperance Hill	Eola-Amity	40 years	Organic	16%	
Knights Gambit	Dundee Hills	24 years	Organic	12%	
Hope Well	Eola-Amity	15 years	Organic	8%	
Momtazi	McMinnville	22 years	Bio-Dynamic	4%	
Hyland	McMinnville	47 years	Bio-Dynamic	2%	

95 Points

Decanter

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.

95 Points

WA
WINEANORAK
WILLAMETTE VALLEY

This is fresh, refined and textural with sweet black cherry and berry fruits...harmonious.

94 Points

Wine Spectator

Handsomely built and polished, with a vibrant core of lively acidity and tannins wrapped in vibrant cherry, savory forest floor and spice tones that build tension.

94 Points

Wine & Spirits

Jean-Nicolas Méo has crafted a gorgeous assemblage here, elegant and yet packed with flavor. It smells like a handful of ripe berries, the dark fruit elements framed by foresty scents.

94 Points

Antonio Galloni
vinous

Vivid ruby. Assertive aromas of blackberry, licorice, cola and exotic spices take on a sexy floral nuance as the wine opens up. Juicy and energetic on the palate.

94 Points

This is a reserve-level, select-barrel blend from some of the eight sites the winery works with. Already complex **Cellar Selection**.

94 Points

WINEENTHUSIAST

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

Spiced plums, cherries, rose hips, cedar and baking spices on the nose. Dried lemon zest, too. Excellent structure, freshness and drive. Unfiltered.

"L'ENSEMBLE" WILLAMETTE VALLEY PINOT NOIR

This is a story of a three-decade friendship between famed Burgundian winemaker Jean-Nicolas Méo and visionary music entrepreneur Jay Boberg, and their shared appreciation for the phenomenal quality and potential of Oregon Pinot Noir.

Unfiltered & Unfiltered * Native Yeast Fermentation
33% New French Oak for 14 months

VIENS AVEC NOUS

Jean-Nicolas Méo Jay Boberg

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY DOMAINE NICOLAS JAY
DUNDEE, OREGON NICOLAS-JAY.COM

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS. (3) 15 L CONTAINS SULFITES. ALC 13.5% BY VOL