

NICOLAS-JAY ESTATE 2019 '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

2019 began with a cold late winter that warmed quickly into a warmer than average spring. The defining feature of the growing season, however, was not in the timing of rainfall, but the amount. 2019 gave us record rainfall in late June and July, causing a delay in ripening and an abundance of growth in the vineyards. The low temperatures were normal to above average but without the usual heat spikes and intensity of the usual record Oregon summer heat waves. A beautiful dry August pushed the grapes toward maturity while maintaining balance and acidity through ripening. Early rains in September slowed things down, finally abating and finishing the growing season with a long, cool and dry Fall. The resulting wines have elegance, finesse and balance in what is one of the first cool Oregon vintages we've seen at the domaine. The aromatics and bright nature of these wines make them compelling to drink now and also speak to their aging potential as they open up and develop in bottle. We bottled this vintage a few months earlier than usual to preserve the beautiful elegance of the vintage.

Winemaker Tasting Notes

Although just our second interpretation of this cuvee, we have been envisioning this wine's construction since our very first vintage. This really is the collection of the best blocks and barrels of everything we farm. The 2019 L'Ensemble showcases Christmas spice, currants, blueberries and sweet forest floor notes. The front end brings strawberries, then chalky granite complexities, and subsequently shifts back to a fresh cranberry and hood river cherry. A framing of gentle vanilla weight from extra aging in French oak completes the palate. The fruit is cascading in effect, it forms in waves, with precise integration and symmetry that supports the wine's finesse and power.



Sourcing

Vineyard	AVA	Vine Age	Farming	% Share
Bishop Creek	Yamhill-Carlton	33 years	Organic	35%
Nysa	Dundee Hills	31 years	Organic	20%
Knights Gambit	Dundee Hills	24 years	Organic	10%
Momtazi	McMinnville	22 years	Bio-Dynamic	10%
La Colina	Dundee Hills	22 years	LIVE	10%
Hope Well	Eola-Amity	15 years	Organic	5%
Temperance Hill	Eola-Amity	40 years	Organic	5%
Hyland	McMinnville	47 years	Bio-Dynamic	5%

Harvested: Sept 14-26 **Harvest Brix:** 21-22.5
Alcohol: 13.5% **TA:** 5.1g/L **pH:** 3.61
Winemaking: Native yeast, unfiltered, unfiltered
Cooperage: 33% new French Oak, 14 months
Date Bottled: February 5, 2021
Production: 55 barrels



96 Points

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

18.5/20

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.

matthew jukes

93 Points

Aromas of strawberries, spices and flowers follow through to a medium body with a firm and slightly chewy mouth-feel and a delicious finish. Give it time to come together and open. Unfiltered and unfiltered. Drink

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